COMPENDIUM OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION STATISTICS AUSTRALIA 2006–07

March 2009





Australian Government

Australian Safety and Compensation Council

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This publication is the sixteenth in the Compendium series. While the Compendium is restricted to the analysis of accepted workers' compensation claims, it nevertheless provides a good indicator of Australia's OHS performance in 2006–07 and allows trends in OHS performance over time to be analysed. Data are presented by key variables such as industry, occupation, age and gender with supporting information on the circumstances surrounding work-related injury and disease occurrences. The data in this report were compiled according to the concepts and definitions set out in the *National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics* (NDS).

Considerable change has occurred across all data values in this publication due to the recent resupply of data from one jurisdiction that had previously been including all lodged claims rather than just supplying those claims for which liability had been accepted by the workers' compensation authority. This has resulted in around 5000 or 3% of claims being removed from the data and hence incidence and frequency rates have also fallen. In addition, as claims that have been rejected tend to involve only short periods of time lost from work, median time lost and median payments have increased. This change has affected all data back to 2000–01. Revisions prior to this date have not been made and hence time series data in this publication has been restricted to the period from 2000–01 onwards.

Additional NDS-based information may be obtained from the National Online Statistics Interactive database (NOSI). This web-based statistics database can be interrogated to provide the data shown in this publication and in more detail. There will however be differences between the data shown in this report and the NOSI database. More information on this can be found in Appendix 1. The NOSI database can be found on the ASCC website ascc.gov.au. Reports using other sources of national OHS statistics are also available at ascc.gov.au/ascc/aboutus/publications/.

While data is collected at the jurisdictional level it is not shown in this report as there are many factors which impact on the comparability of these data. These factors are taken into consideration in the *Comparative Performance Monitoring* (CPM) report which is published annually. The CPM report presents comparable jurisdictional information on the incidence and frequency of work-related injuries, disease and fatalities and is available at workplace.gov.au/cpm.

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1. The letter 'p' following the year indicates that the data is preliminary

Part A: Summary of serious claims, 2006–07p

Preliminary data show there were 132 055 serious workers' compensation claims in 2006–07, which equates to 14 claims per 1000 employees or 9 claims per million hours worked.

Gender

Men accounted for 68% of all serious claims with incidence rates for male employees almost twice that of females: 18 claims per 1000 male employees compared with 10 claims per 1000 female employees.

Age

In 2006–07, incidence rates increased progressively with age. There were 9 claims per 1000 employees aged 15–19 years, which increased to 17 claims per 1000 employees aged 60–64 years.

Industry

The Manufacturing, Transport and storage, Agriculture, forestry and fishing, and Construction industries had incidence rates substantially above the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees. Rates for these industries ranged between 22 and 28 claims per 1000 employees.

Occupation

The occupational group with the highest incidence rate of serious claims was Labourers and related workers (39 claims per 1000 employees). Intermediate production and transport workers had the second highest rate with 29 claims per 1000 employees.

Nature of injury or disease

The majority (73%) of the serious claims involved injury or poisoning (95 910 claims) and the remaining 27% (36 145 claims) were disease related. The most common injury leading to a serious claim was *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles*, which accounted for 41% of all serious claims. *Fractures* and *Open wounds not involving traumatic amputation* were the next most common injuries, accounting for 8% of all serious claims each.

The most common diseases resulting in serious claims were *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (7% of all serious claims), *Dorsopathies – disorders of spinal vertebrae* (6% of all serious claims) and *Mental disorders* (5% of all serious claims).

Location of injury or disease

Almost one-quarter (23%) of all serious claims involved the *Back*. Other common bodily locations were *Hand* (13% of all claims), *Shoulder* (9% of all claims) and *Knee* (9% of all claims).

Mechanism of injury or disease

Manual handling mechanisms (*Body stressing*) were the cause of 41% of all serious claims. These included *Muscular stress while lifting objects* (18% of all claims) and *Muscular stress while handling objects* (15% of all claims). The most common mechanism that was not related to manual handling was *Falls on the same level*, which accounted for 13% of all serious claims.

Agency of injury or disease

Non-powered handtools, appliances and equipment was the most common breakdown agency leading to an injury or illness, representing 26% of all serious claims. The second most common breakdown agency was *Environmental agencies*, which accounted for 16% of all serious claims. Included in this category are factors such as steps and stairways, floor conditions and weather and ground conditions.

Part B: Trends over time, 2000–01 to 2005–06

Over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, the number of serious claims decreased 6% from 144 740 claims to 136 575. Due to large increases in employment, incidence rates fell 16%, from 18 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 15 in 2005–06 and frequency rates fell 14% from 11 serious claims per million hours worked to 9. Falls in incidence rates by age mirrored the 16% fall in incidence rates over the six year period except for the 60–64 years age group which recorded a 29% fall. There has been little change over this period in the proportion of serious claims lodged by male employees compared to female employees (67% and 32% respectively).

All industries recorded falls in incidence rates over the period, though the Wholesale trade industry only recorded a 1% fall. The Electricity, gas and water supply industry recorded the greatest percentage improvement, a 43% fall, followed by the Mining industry with a 36% fall.

Payments and time lost

While the median time lost from work had recorded some increases over this period, in 2005–06 it returned to the level it was in 2000–01, 3.8 working weeks. In 2005–06 median time lost for male employees was 3.4 working weeks and for female employees 4.4 working weeks. This difference between claims lodged by males and females has remained relatively constant over the six years.

In contrast to median time lost, median payments for male and female employees were similar in 2005–06 (\$6100 and \$6000 respectively), with the higher time lost for female employees offsetting lower wages to result in a similar median payment amount to male employees. The median payment for serious claims rose 15% from \$5300 to \$6100 over the six year period.

The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the highest time lost from work of 4.6 working weeks in 2005–06 but due to the lower salaries in this industry, it recorded one of the lowest median payment amounts (\$5100 in 2005–06 compared to the all claims median of \$6100). The highest median payments were recorded in the Mining industry (\$10 400 in 2005–06).

Part C: Compensated fatalities

Preliminary data show that in 2006–07 there were 236 compensated fatalities. This is equivalent to an incidence rate of 2.5 fatalities per 100 000 employees. Of these, 215 (91%) were male employees. Over the period from 2000–01 and 2005–06, the number of fatalities fell 21% from 320 to 254. Over the same period, incidence rates fell by 29% from 4.0 fatalities per 100 000 employees to 2.8.

Industry

The Construction industry recorded the highest number of fatalities in 2006–07p, 50 fatalities, followed by the Transport and storage industry with 45 fatalities (of which 31 were in Road freight transport). The Transport and storage industry also recorded the highest fatality incidence rate in 2006–07p (11 fatalities per 100 000 employees). This was followed by the Construction and Agriculture, forestry and fishing industries: both with a rate of 8 fatalities per 100 000 employees.

Occupation

Intermediate production and transport workers accounted for 30% (71 fatalities) of the fatalities in 2006–07p — almost two thirds of these fatalities (45) were of Truck drivers. This was followed by Tradespersons and related workers with 53 fatalities and Labourers and related workers with 45 fatalities.

Mechanism of injury or disease

A third of the fatalities in 2006–07p (81 deaths) were due to *Vehicle accident* followed by 33 deaths due to *Long term contact with chemicals or substances*, 19 due to *Being hit by moving objects* and 18 due to *Being hit by falling objects*.

Part A Serious claims, 2006–07p

The preliminary data for 2006–07 shows there were 132 055 claims accepted for workers' compensation data involving a serious injury. Serious claims are those lodged in the reference year and accepted by the date the data are extracted and involve either a death; a permanent incapacity; or a temporary incapacity requiring an absence from work of one working week or more.

This number of claims equates to 14 claims per 1000 employees or 9 claims per million hours worked. However, as these data are preliminary (denoted throughout this publication by the letter 'p'), they are subject to change as more claims are accepted or amended by the jurisdictions at a later date. Consequently, 2006–07p data understate the number of claims that will eventually be accepted for that year and for this reason are not included in the time series comparisons shown in this publication. The validity of the distributional characteristics of these data shown in this chapter are not significantly affected by this understatement.

Serious claims by gender

Table 1 shows that of the 132 055 serious claims lodged during 2006–07p, 68% were from male employees and 32% from female employees. These proportions have changed little in recent years. (See Part C Trends over time).

Table 1 Serious claims: number, percentage of total, incidence rate and frequency rate by gender, 2006–07p

	Number of claims	% of claims	Incidence rate ^(a)	Frequency rate ^(b)
Females	42 240	32%	9.6	7.0
Males	89 815	68%	18.4	9.9
Total	132 055	100%	14.2	8.8

(a) Calculated as a rate per 1000 employees.

(b) Calculated as a rate per million hours worked.

Incidence rates

Differences in the number of serious claims for male and female employees reflect underlying differences in both work safety outcomes and labour force participation for men and women. The incidence rate — measured here as the number of serious claims per 1000 employees — takes into account differences in labour force participation, and can be used to compare the relative likelihood of workrelated injury or disease between men and women.

Table 1 shows that after taking into account differences in labour force participation, male employees were twice as likely as female employees to have a claim (18 claims for men per 1000 male employees compared with 9 claims for women per 1000 female employees).

The overall higher incidence rates of serious claims among male employees can primarily be attributed to the predominance of male employees in the more hazardous industries such as Construction (8 males to every female); Mining (7 males to every female); Manufacturing and Transport and storage (both with an employee gender ratio of 3 males to every female).

Frequency rates Another way to examine differences in workplace injury or disease between different groups of employees — such as men and women — is to use frequency rates. This measure relates the number of serious claims reported among a given group of employees to the total time they spent working. This negates differences in the proportion of part-time employees between one group and another.

Table 1 shows that in 2006–07p frequency rates differed less between male and female employees than did incidence rates. This reflects the higher level of parttime work among women than among men. Using this measure, male employees were 1.4 times more likely than female employees to have a claim (10 claims per million hours worked by men compared with 7 claims per million hours worked by women).

Serious claims by age

Table 2 shows that claims were spread fairly evenly across the age groups in 2006–07p. Only 5% of serious claims involved employees aged less than 20 years, and a further 6% involved employees aged 60 years or older. Since claims made by male employees constitute three-quarters of all serious claims, the pattern by age for male employees drives the pattern for all claims. However, the pattern of claims lodged by female employees is different, with lower proportions in the younger age groups and the highest proportion (17% of female claims) recorded by the 45–49 years age group.

Table 2	Serious claims: number, percentage of total, incidence rate and frequency rate by
	age and gender, 2006–07p

	No. of claims			Perc	entage of			
Age group	Females	Males	Total	Female	Male	Total	Incidence rate ^(a)	Frequency rate ^(b)
15–19 years	1 820	4 730	6 550	4	5	5	9.0	9.2
20-24 years	3 445	9 460	12 910	8	11	10	11.6	7.5
25–29 years	3 440	9 235	12 670	8	10	10	11.9	6.9
30-34 years	3 540	10 305	13 845	8	11	10	13.5	7.8
35–39 years	4 530	10 985	15 520	11	12	12	14.6	8.5
40-44 years	5 835	10 985	16 820	14	12	13	15.7	9.1
45–49 years	7 090	10 840	17 930	17	12	14	16.5	9.5
50-54 years	6 400	9 490	15 890	15	11	12	17.3	10.1
55–59 years	4 130	7 900	12 030	10	9	9	17.2	10.4
60–64 years	1 605	4 470	6 080	4	5	5	17.2	11.1
65 years & over	385	1 340	1 720	1	1	1	12.3	9.0
Total	42 240	89 815	132 055	100	100	100	14.2	8.8

(a) Calculated as a rate per 1000 employees.

(b) Calculated as a rate per million hours worked.

Incidence rates

Table 2 also shows incidence rates and frequency rates to take into account differences between age groups in total number of employees and total employee hours spent at work. Table 2 indicates that incidence rates increased progressively with age from 15–19 years (9 claims per 1000 employees) until 50–54 years (17 claims per 1000 employees). It then remained stable before dropping for employees aged 65 years and over (12 claims per 1000 employees). Employees in all age groups between 35 years and 64 years recorded incidence rates above the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees.

Figure 1 shows the incidence rates for male and female employees in 2006–07p by age group. The rate for men substantially exceeded the rate for women in all age groups. For both men and women the incidence rate generally increased with age: up to a peak at 60–64 years of age for men and 50–54 years for women.

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Figure 1 Serious claims: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p

Frequency rates

In contrast to the large range of incidence rates across age groups, there was substantially less variation in frequency rates across age groups (Table 2). This indicates that, on a 'per hour' basis, there is not a large difference in the frequency of workers' compensation claims due to the age of the employee.

Figure 2 shows the frequency rates for male and female employees in 2006–07p by age group. The rate for male employees exceeded the rate for female employees in all age groups, although differences were small for the 45–49 and 50–54 years age groups. In common with the pattern of incidence rates across age groups, the highest frequency rates occurred among men aged 60–64 years and women aged 50–54 years (12 and 10 claims per million hours worked respectively). However, while the incidence rate for 15–19 year old men was the lowest of all males, when the part time nature of work for this group was taken into account via frequency rates, their frequency rate (12 claims per million hours worked) and thus risk of injury is second only to 60–64 males.



Figure 2 Serious claims: frequency rate by gender and age, 2006–07p

Serious claims by industry

Table 3 shows that just over half of all claims (53%) involved four industries: Manufacturing (26 695 claims, or 20% of all claims); Health and community services (16 030 claims, 12%); Construction (14 130 claims, 11%); and Retail trade (12 495 claims, 9%). However the pattern for male and female employees is quite different. For female employees, 30% of claims were reported in the Health and community services industry with a further 13% in Retail trade and 10% in Education. For male employees, the highest proportions of claims were recorded in the Manufacturing industry (25%), the Construction industry (15%) and the Transport and storage industry (11%).

	Ν	o. of claim	s	Percentage of claims			
Industry	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	
Manufacturing	3 890	22 805	26 695	9	25	20	
Health & community services	12 740	3 285	16 030	30	4	12	
Construction	320	13 810	14 130	1	15	11	
Retail trade	5 620	6 875	12 495	13	8	9	
Transport & storage	1 060	9 710	10 765	3	11	8	
Property & business services	2 925	6 035	8 955	7	7	7	
Wholesale trade	1 180	5 485	6 665	3	6	5	
Education	4 255	2 175	6 430	10	2	5	
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	3 305	2 965	6 270	8	3	5	
Personal & other services	1 565	3 725	5 290	4	4	4	
Government administration & defence	2 050	3 105	5 155	5	3	4	
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	920	3 705	4 625	2	4	4	
Cultural & recreational services	990	1 560	2 550	2	2	2	
Mining	105	2 340	2 445	0	3	2	
Communication services	300	885	1 185	1	1	1	
Finance & insurance	860	300	1 160	2	0	1	
Electricity, gas & water supply	50	700	750	0	1	1	
Total ^(a)	42 240	89 815	132 055	100	100	100	

Table 3 Serious claims: number of claims by industry and gender, 2006–07p

(a) Includes claims for which Industry was not stated.

Incidence rates Figure 3 shows that in 2006–07p, five industries had incidence rates substantially above the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees. These were Manufacturing; Transport and storage; Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Construction and Mining (ranging between 19 and 28 claims per 1000 employees). More information on these industries is available in Part D Priority Industry Profiles. Finance and insurance (3 claims per 1000 employees) had a substantially lower incidence rate than any other industry.

Frequency rates When rates are calculated using hours worked the same industries continue to record rates well above the national rate of 9 claims per million hours worked except for the Mining industry which recorded a frequency rate just below the national rate reflecting the longer hours of work in this industry compared to many other industries. The Accommodation, cafes and restaurant industry moved the other way, with incidence rates below the national average but frequency rates above the average reflecting the shorter hours of work per employee. Due to the different patterns of work, frequency rates are considered the better measure for comparison purposes.

Figure 4 shows that the Manufacturing; Transport and storage; Agriculture, forestry and fishing; and Construction industries had the highest frequency rates ranging from 12 claims per million hours worked to 15. Similar to incidence rates, the Finance and insurance industry (2 claims per million hours worked) had the lowest rate of all industries.



Figure 3 Serious claims: incidence rate by industry, 2006–07p





Serious claims by occupation

Table 4 shows that approximately one-quarter of all serious claims were made by employees working as Labourers and related workers (31 095 claims). Tradespersons and related workers accounted for a further 21% of all claims and Intermediate production and transport workers, a further 18% of all claims.

As claims from male employees accounted for two-thirds of all serious claims, the pattern for male employees is similar to the total proportions. However the pattern for female employees is different with the largest proportion of claims coming from employees working as Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (27%) followed by Labourers and related workers (20%) and Professionals (18%).

	N	o. of claim	IS	Percentage of claims			
Occupation	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	
Labourers & related workers	8 305	22 790	31 095	20	25	24	
Tradespersons & related workers	1 970	25 275	27 250	5	28	21	
Intermediate production & transport workers	1 995	21 785	23 780	5	24	18	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	11 445	4 340	15 785	27	5	12	
Professionals	7 750	4 750	12 500	18	5	9	
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	5 210	3 725	8 930	12	4	7	
Associate professionals	3 930	4 920	8 845	9	5	7	
Managers & administrators	965	2 025	2 990	2	2	2	
Advanced clerical & service workers	670	205	875	2	0	1	
Total serious claims	42 240	89 815	132 055	100	100	100	

Table 4 Serious claims: number of claims by occupation and gender, 2006–07p

Incidence rates Figure 5 shows that in 2006–07p, Labourers and related workers had the highest rate, 39 claims per 1000 employees — nearly three times the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees. Intermediate production and transport workers and Tradespersons and related workers had rates double the national rate (29 and 28 claims per 1000 employees respectively). All other occupation groups had rates below the national rate, with the lowest rate recorded by Advanced clerical and service workers (3 claims per 1000 employees).





Table 5 shows the occupation sub-categories with the ten highest incidence rates in 2006–07p. Together, these sub-categories accounted for 28% of all serious claims. The highest incidence rate (63 claims per 1000 employees) occurred among Process workers: more than four times the national rate. Process workers accounted for 1.5% of all employees and 18% of Labourers and related workers. The next highest incidence rates occurred among Fabrication engineering tradespersons (45 claims per 1000 employees) and Structural construction tradespersons (36), accounting for 0.9% and 1.2% of employees respectively. Both of these sub-categories are part of the Tradespersons and related workers group. Of the occupation sub-categories with the ten highest incidence rates, Road and rail transport drivers represented the greatest proportion of employees, 2.8% and recorded the fourth highest incidence rate (35 claims per 1000 employees).

Frequency rates Figure 6 shows that in 2006–07p, the frequency rate pattern was quite similar to that displayed in the graph of incidence rates by occupation (Figure 5). This similarity between the two measures — per 1000 employees and per million hours worked — indicates that at this broad level of aggregation, differences in hours worked between occupation groups are small.

Occupation sub-category	Number of claims	% of all claims	Incidence rate ^(b)
Process workers	8 860	6.7%	62.5
Fabrication engineering tradespersons	3 615	2.7%	45.3
Structural construction tradespersons	3 915	3.0%	36.0
Road & rail transport drivers	9 255	7.0%	35.4
Mining, construction & related labourers	3 830	2.9%	35.0
Agricultural & horticultural labourers	3 020	2.3%	31.5
Wood tradespersons	695	0.5%	30.6
Police officers	1 525	1.2%	30.3
Intermediate mining & construction workers	1 595	1.2%	28.0
Welfare associate professionals	610	0.5%	28.0

Table 5 Serious claims: occupation sub-categories^(a) with the highest incidence rates, 2006–07p

(a) Compiled at the 3rd level of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), 2nd Edition. Occupations limited to those involving more than 500 serious claims, 'Miscellaneous' categories are excluded. Occupations for which the estimate of employees had a relative standard error exceeding 25% are excluded. (b) Calculated as a rate per 1000 employees.

Figure 6 also shows that Labourers and related workers had the highest frequency rate, 28 claims per million hours worked — more than three times the national rate of 9 claims per million hours worked. This rate was considerably higher than the rates for the second and third-ranking occupation groups: Intermediate production and transport workers and Tradespersons and related workers (16 and 15 claims per million hours worked respectively). All other occupation groups had rates below the national rate, with Advanced clerical and service workers having the lowest rate (2 claims per million hours worked).





Serious claims by the nature of injury or disease

The *Nature of injury or disease* classification is used to categorise the most serious injury or disease sustained by the employee. Injury claims include poisoning incidents, which comprise 0.2% of all claims. In 2006–07p, there were 95 910 claims for injury, accounting for 73% of all serious claims, and 36 145 claims for disease. However, the work-related disease figures shown in this publication may not be an accurate count of the full extent of work-related disease, as for a variety of reasons some diseases may not result in a compensation claim. In particular, the long latency period of many diseases means that it is not always possible to conclusively establish a relationship between the disease and prior workplace exposure.

Figure 7 shows that claims for *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* predominated, accounting for 41% of all serious claims. The next most common categories of injury-related claims were *Fractures* and *Open wound not involving traumatic amputation* (both accounting for 8% of serious claims).

The most common diseases involved in claims were *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (7% of serious claims); *Dorsopathies* — *disorders of spinal vertebrae* (6% of all serious claims); *Mental disorders* (5% of serious claims); and *Deafness* and *Hernia* (both with 3% of serious claims).



Figure 7 Serious claims: percentage of claims by nature of injury or disease, 2006–07p

* These groupings are not formal *Nature of injury or disease* classifications. They include logical groupings of injuries and diseases that individually accounted for less than 1% of claims. For example, other injuries includes *Superficial injury, Multiple injuries* and *Other and unspecified injuries* and other diseases includes *Contact dermatitis* and *Other diseases of skin and subcutaneous tissue.*

Table 6 shows that in 2006–07p there were 10.3 injury claims and 3.9 disease claims per 1000 employees or 6.4 injury claims per million hours worked and 2.4 disease claims per million hours worked per million hours worked. Male employees accounted for 69% of injury claims (66 610 claims) and 64% of disease claims (23 205 claims). In terms of incidence rates, male employees were twice as likely to have an injury claim and were 1.6 times more likely to have a disease claim than female employees. Frequency rate data shows a similar pattern with male employees 1.5 times more likely to have an injury claim and 1.2 times more likely to have a disease claim than female employees.

Nature / Gender	Number of claims	% of claims	Incidence rate ^(a)	Frequency rate ^(b)
Injury claims	95 910	100.0%	10.3	6.4
Male	66 610	69.5%	13.6	7.4
Female	29 300	30.5%	6.7	4.9
Disease claims	36 145	100.0%	3.9	2.4
Male	23 205	64.2%	4.8	2.6
Female	12 940	35.8%	3.0	2.1

Table 6 Serious claims: nature of injury or disease by gender, 2006–07p

(a) Calculated as a rate per 1000 employees.

(b) Calculated as a rate per million hours worked.

Serious claims by bodily location of injury or disease

The *Bodily location of injury or disease* classification is used to identify the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. At the broadest level of the classification, the most common bodily locations were *Upper Limbs* (32% of all serious claims) and *Trunk* (28% of all serious claims).

Figure 8 shows the percentage distribution of serious claims in 2006–07p across bodily locations classified at a finer level of detail. The *Back* was the most common location of injury or disease, representing almost one-quarter (23%) of all serious claims (among these claims 72% involved a problem in the lower back). The next most common bodily locations were *Hand, Shoulder,* and *Knee* — 13%, 9%, and 9% of all claims respectively. The non-physical category *Psychological systems* was specified for 5% of all claims: this category covers conditions such as nervous breakdown, anxiety and depression.

Figure 8 Serious claims: percentage of claims by bodily location of injury or disease, 2006–07p



* These categories are not formal *Bodily location of injury or disease* classifications. They are logical groupings of locations that individually accounted for less than 1% of claims.

Serious claims by mechanism of injury or disease

The *Mechanism of injury or disease* classification is used to describe the action, exposure or event that was the direct cause of the most serious injury or disease. The *National OHS Strategy 2002–2012* led to the identification of four mechanisms that, because of their prevalence, should be monitored closely. These mechanisms are *Body stressing* (also referred to as Manual handling); *Falls, trips and slips of a person; Hitting objects with a part of the body;* and *Being hit by moving objects.* In 2006–07p, these four mechanisms together accounted for 84% of all serious claims. Each of these mechanisms has been the subject of a feature article in earlier publications.

Figure 9 shows the percentage distribution of serious claims in 2006–07p across mechanisms classified at a finer level of detail. Manual-handling mechanisms accounted for 41% of all serious claims. Within this group *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* accounted for 18% of all serious claims and *Muscular stress while handling objects, other than lifting, carrying or putting down* a further15%. The most common mechanism not related to manual handling was *Falls on the same level,* accounting for 13% of all serious claims.

Figure 9 Serious claims: percentage of claims by mechanism of injury or disease, 2006–07p



Serious claims by breakdown agency of injury or disease

Breakdown agency refers to the object, substance or circumstance principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong, and which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. Figure 10 shows that at the broad classification level, 26% of serious claims in 2006–07 involved *Non-powered handtools, appliances and equipment*. Out of these claims, the two most common sub-groups were *Fastening, packing and packaging equipment* and *Furniture and fittings,* accounting for 9% and 6% of serious claims respectively.

The second most common breakdown agency specified at the broad classification level was *Environmental agencies* (16% of all claims). These claims were split almost equally at the sub-group level between *Indoor environment* and *Outdoor environment* with 7% and 8% of serious claims respectively. These sub-agencies include such factors as steps and stairways, floor conditions, weather and ground conditions.

Figure 10 Serious claims: percentage of claims by breakdown agency of injury or disease, 2006–07p



Part B Serious claims, trends over time

Data for the most recent year, 2006–07, is not used in this analysis of trends because it is preliminary (denoted throughout the publication with the letter 'p') and likely to increase by around 3–4%. Instead, comparison is made to revised data for 2005–06 which, although still subject to further minor revision, provides a better reference point for identifying trends in the number and rate of workers' compensation claims. The reader should also note that some of the changes in serious claim numbers and rates identified in this section may be related to changes in workers' compensation legislation within the jurisdictions.

There has also been a major revision to the data for all years due to the identification of an error in the provision of previous years' data by one jurisdiction. Data corrections have only been possible back to 2000–01 and hence time series presented in this section have been restricted to this time period. Comparison with previous publications should not be undertaken to create a longer time series.

The data show there has been a 6% decrease in the number of serious claims from 144 740 claims lodged in 2000–01 to 136 575 claims lodged in 2005–06 (see Figure 11). Serious claims are defined as accepted claims involving either a death, a permanent incapacity, or a temporary incapacity involving one working week or more absence from work.

The overall decrease in the number of serious claims over the six-year period combined with increasing employee numbers (up from 8.0 million in 2000–01 to 9.0 million in 2005–06) has seen the incidence rate for compensated work-related injury or disease fall 16% from 18 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 15 in 2005–06 (Figure 12). Similarly, the frequency rate has fallen 14% from 11 serious claims per million hours worked by employees to 9 serious claims per million hours worked by employees to 9 serious claims per million hours worked by employees (Figure 13).

While similar, these numbers should not be confused with the target measurement under the *National OHS Strategy 2002–2012*. The Strategy includes a target to reduce the incidence of work-related injury (including musculoskeletal disorders) by at least 40% by June 2012 with an interim target of a 20% reduction by June 2007. The base period for this target is the three-year period 2000–01 to 2002–03. Data from the recently released *Comparative Performance Monitoring Report, 10th Edition* shows that the 16% improvement recorded from the base period up to 2006–07 is below the rate of improvement required to meet the target of a 40% reduction by June 2012. More information on the National OHS Strategy can be found at ascc.gov.au.

Trends by gender

Figure 11 also shows that over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, the number of serious claims for female employees decreased 2.5% and for male employees 7.0%. There has been little change in the split between serious claims lodged by females (32% of serious claims in 2005–06) and those lodged by males over this period (68% of serious claims).

Over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, there has been significant growth in the number of employees with a 14% increase recorded for females and a 10% increase for males. This growth combined with decreases in the number of claims has resulted in a 15% decrease in the incidence rate of serious claims for female employees and a 16% decrease for male employees (see Figure 12). Similar decreases were recorded for frequency rates: 13% decrease for females and 14% for males (see Figure 13).



Figure 11 Serious claims: number of claims by year









Payments and time lost

Figure 14 shows that median time lost from work recorded increased from 3.8 working weeks of time lost in 2000–01 up to 4.1 in 2002–03 but the amount of time lost has now returned to 3.8 weeks in 2005–06. The pattern for claims made by males and females have also followed this trend, however the 3.4 working weeks of time lost for males in 2005–06 is a slight improvement on the 3.5 working weeks of time lost recorded in 2000–01. These data also show that on average female employees take one week more time off work than male employees.



Figure 14 Serious claims: median time lost by year

Figure 15 shows that median payments have increased 15% from \$5300 in 2000–01 to \$6100 in 2005–06. In contrast to the median time lost, median payments show little difference between male and female employee claims. This is most probably due to lower wages earnt by females being offset by the longer time lost.



Figure 15 Serious claims: median payment by year

The reader should keep in mind that while a claim remains open, the time lost and associated payments can increase. Therefore, the next Compendium may show changes to all years.

Trends by age of employee

	Table 7 presents information on the age of employees who lodged serious claims in the period 2000–01 to 2005–06. The age used in this report is the age of the employee on the date on which the injury occurred or, if the claim involved an occupational disease, when the disease was first reported to the employer. The proportion of claims lodged by employees in each age group has remained relatively stable over the six year period with similar proportions in the age groups from 20–24 years through to 50–54 years (from 10% to 14% of all claims). The two age groups with the smallest number of claims were 65 years and over group, which accounted on average for 1% of claims. The proportion of claims in the 65 years and over group is affected by the limited availability of workers' compensation to employees in this age group plus lower employment levels.
	While the proportions of claims in each age group have not changed over time, the actual number of serious claims within each age group has shown differing results by group with the 65 years and over group recording the largest percentage increase (60%) in claim numbers from 1030 in 2000–01 to 1645 in 2005–06. The next two older age groups have also shown increases over time whereas the largest percentage drops were recorded in the 25–29 years age group (down 21%), the 30–34 age group (down 13%) and the 35–39 age group (down 15%).
Incidence rate	While the claim numbers within age groups showed a range of changes, the incidence rates have recorded similar percentage falls over time. The incidence rate, measured as serious claims per 1000 employees, negates changes over time in the number of employees in each age group and hence this outcome implies that the changes in claim numbers are reflecting changing employment patterns.
	Incidence rates can be used to compare the relative likelihood of work-related injury or disease at different ages. Table 7 shows that incidence rates generally increased with employees' age. The lowest incidence rates were recorded by the 15–19 years age group (9.1 claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06) with the highest incidence rates generally recorded by the 60–64 years age group (18 claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06). While the 55–59 years age group had a substantially lower number of claims in 2005–06 compared to the next two younger age groups, the incidence rates for all three age groups were the same reflecting less employees in the 55–59 years age group.
	Over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06 there was a steady decline in incidence rates in all age groups. The largest decline (29%) occurred among employees aged 60–64 years: the rate fell from 26 serious claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 18 in 2005–06. Considering that this age group recorded a 25% increase in claim numbers, the substantial decrease in incidence rates is directly linked to large increases in employment in this age group. The smallest decline (11%) was recorded in the 45–49 years age group. This group recorded a small increase in claim numbers and did not have as big an increase in employment as the older age groups.
Frequency rate	Another way to examine workplace injury and disease is in relation to the total time employees spent at their workplaces. This negates differences in the proportion of workers who are part-time in each of the age groups and changes in those proportions over time. While incidence rates showed a marked increase with age (from 9 to 18 claims per 1000 employees), the increase in frequency rates with age was smaller from 9 to 12 claims per million hours worked— reflecting the effect of removing the differences in hours worked.
	Despite the smaller range, the percentage decreases in the frequency rates for

Despite the smaller range, the percentage decreases in the frequency rates for serious claims was only slightly lower than for incidence rates. The largest decrease (28%) occurred among employees in the same age group as for incidence rates, 60–64 years and the smallest decrease in frequency rate (10%) also occurred in the same age group, 45–49 years, as for incidence rates.

Age group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	
			Number of s	erious claim	S		% chg ^(b)
15–19 years	6 925	6 435	6 735	6 690	6 680	6 455	-7%
20-24 years	14 240	13 345	13 500	13 685	13 435	13 200	-7%
25–29 years	16 750	15 415	14 870	14 190	13 715	13 220	-21%
30–34 years	17 525	17 410	17 140	16 740	16 440	15 195	-13%
35–39 years	19 110	18 000	17 210	17 150	17 140	16 175	-15%
40-44 years	19 820	19 485	19 625	19 300	19 320	18 260	-8%
45–49 years	18 055	17 995	18 070	18 620	18 785	18 565	3%
50-54 years	16 830	16 265	16 280	16 580	16 455	15 920	-5%
55–59 years	9 750	10 270	10 945	11 705	12 090	12 050	24%
60-64 years	4 685	4 615	4 795	5 200	5 620	5 845	25%
65 years & over ^(a)	1 030	1 070	1 155	1 335	1 515	1 645	60%
Total claims	144 740	140 320	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 575	-6%
	Ir	cidence rat	e (serious cl	aims per 10	00 employee	s)	% chg ^(b)
15–19 years	10.5	9.7	9.9	9.5	9.3	9.1	-13%
20-24 years	14.3	14.1	13.9	13.5	12.8	12.2	-15%
25–29 years	15.9	15.6	15.1	14.4	13.7	13.0	-18%
30-34 years	18.1	17.7	16.7	16.3	15.9	14.6	-19%
35–39 years	19.8	18.4	17.7	17.7	17.8	16.1	-19%
40-44 years	19.9	19.1	18.9	18.6	18.2	17.0	-15%
45–49 years	20.1	19.4	18.9	18.9	18.5	17.9	-11%
50-54 years	22.1	20.3	19.8	19.9	18.9	17.9	-19%
55–59 years	21.7	21.0	20.4	20.4	19.8	17.9	-18%
60-64 years	25.7	22.3	20.8	20.4	19.7	18.3	-29%
65 years & over ^(a)	14.1	12.5	13.7	14.2	14.1	13.0	-8%
All claims	18.1	17.4	16.9	16.7	16.2	15.2	-16%
	Freq	uency rate ((serious clai	ms per millio	on hours wo	rked)	% chg ^(b)
15–19 years	10.3	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.1	9.1	-12%
20-24 years	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.2	7.8	-12%
25–29 years	8.9	8.8	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.4	-17%
30-34 years	10.2	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.0	8.4	-18%
35–39 years	11.3	10.5	10.1	10.2	10.2	9.3	-18%
40-44 years	11.3	10.9	10.7	10.6	10.3	9.8	-13%
45–49 years	11.2	10.9	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.1	-10%
50-54 years	12.4	11.5	11.1	11.3	10.7	10.3	-17%
55–59 years	12.5	12.4	11.9	12.0	11.5	10.6	-15%
60-64 years	16.1	13.9	13.0	13.1	12.2	11.6	-28%
65 years & over ^(a)	9.6	8.8	9.7	10.8	9.7	9.4	-2%
All claims	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.7	9.2	-14%

Table 7 Serious claims: number of claims, incidence rate and frequency rate by age by year

(a) Data on the 65 years and over age group is not strictly comparable to the other age groups as in some jurisdictions compensation ceases at age 65 years (see Explanatory note 3 in Appendix 1, p.77 for further details).

(b) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Trends by industry

Table 8 shows that over the six-year period from 2000–01 to 2005–06 the number of serious claims decreased in 12 of the 17 industry groups. The largest decrease in the number of claims over this period (28%) occurred among employees in the Electricity, gas and water industry (though this industry group recorded the lowest number of claims in 2005–06) followed by a 21% decrease in the number of serious claims in the Communication services industry and a 20% decrease in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry. Increases of 4% in the number of claims were recorded in the Mining, Construction and Property and business services industries.

Incidence rate Despite some industries recording increased claim numbers, incidence rates have fallen in all industries since 2000–01. The Manufacturing industry recorded the highest incidence rate in the last two years (29 serious claims per 1000 employees) however prior to this the Transport and storage industry had the highest rate. Due to the large fall in serious claim numbers and a substantial rise in the number of employees, the Electricity, gas and water supply industry recorded the largest percentage fall in incidence rates over the six year period (43%). The second largest decrease (36%) was recorded by the Mining industry due to a 63% increase in the number of employees and only a minor increase in the number of claims (4%). The smallest improvements were recorded by the Wholesale trade industry (1% decrease) and the Manufacturing industry (5%).

Frequency rate Frequency rates by industry show a similar pattern to that observed for incidence rates except for the Wholesale Trade industry which recorded an increase of 1% in frequency rates over the six year period compared to a 1% decrease in incidence rates. This was due to stable claim numbers and falling hours worked. Comparatively lower hours worked in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing and Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industries resulted in smaller percentage falls in frequency rates. The four highest frequency rates were recorded by the Manufacturing; Transport and storage; Agriculture, forestry and fishing; and Construction industries as per the analysis of incidence rates.

Time lostTable 9 shows that the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the
highest or equal highest median time lost from work in all of the last six years
consistently recording time lost between 4.4 working weeks and 4.8 working weeks.
The lowest median time lost was consistently recorded by the Electricity, gas and
water supply industry, generally recording time lost in the range 2.0 to 2.2 working
weeks.

Increases in median time lost were recorded by 9 of the 17 industries. The greatest increases were recorded by the Education industry (up 15% from 3.4 working weeks lost to 3.9) and the Government administration and defence industry (up 13% from 3.0 to 3.4).

Six of the 17 industries recorded minor decreases of 0.2 working weeks over the six-year period with two industries recording no change.

PaymentsTable 9 also shows that median payments increased in all industries except for a
small decrease in the Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry (down 5%)
and no change recorded in the Property and business services industry. Employees
in the Accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry also consistently had the
lowest median payments for serious claims over the six-year period (\$3500 in
2005–06 compared to the all claims median of \$5800). Since the time lost in this
industry is only slightly lower than the all claims median, the low payments are
most probably linked to the relatively lower salaries in this industry and the high
proportion of part-time employees (*ABS Average weekly earnings*, Cat. no. 6302.0
and *Australian labour market statistics*, Cat. no. 6105.0).

Industry	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	
		Nur	nber of s	erious cla	ims		% chg ^(a)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	5 880	5 765	5 565	5 150	4 940	4 705	-20%
Mining	2 240	2 320	2 300	2 380	2 415	2 340	4%
Manufacturing	31 405	29 675	29 280	28 430	28 565	27 760	-12%
Electricity, gas & water supply	980	930	805	820	905	705	-28%
Construction	13 630	12 395	12 865	14 090	14 355	14 195	4%
Wholesale trade	7 045	6 625	6 305	6 435	6 615	7 025	0%
Retail trade	15 330	14 105	13 880	13 940	13 500	12 865	-16%
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	6 835	6 705	6 695	6 560	6 550	6 345	-7%
Transport & storage	11 580	11 640	11 385	11 485	11 225	11 180	-3%
Communication services	1 665	1 545	1 530	1 515	1 365	1 315	-21%
Finance & insurance	1 395	1 455	1 390	1 365	1 220	1 220	-13%
Property & business services	9 985	10 005	10 565	10 665	11 005	10 335	4%
Government administration & defence	4 750	5 400	5 850	5 620	5 530	4 910	3%
Education	6 615	6 430	6 780	6 865	6 740	6 565	-1%
Health & community services	16 175	16 225	16 340	17 280	17 635	16 475	2%
Cultural & recreational services	3 135	3 090	2 895	2 715	2 695	2 750	-12%
Personal & other services	5 880	5 840	5 785	5 930	6 045	5 535	-6%
Total claims	144 740	140 320	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 575	-6%
	Inciden	ice rate (s	erious cl	aims per	1000 emp	loyees)	% chg ^(a)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	29.1	26.6	30.4	27.3	26.5	25.9	-11%
Mining	29.8	30.4	27.9	26.2	24.2	19.1	-36%
Manufacturing	30.3	30.2	29.1	29.3	29.1	28.8	-5%
Electricity, gas & water supply	14.6	14.0	11.1	11.0	12.0	8.3	-43%
Construction	31.4	28.6	28.7	28.1	26.4	25.0	-20%
Wholesale trade	17.8	17.1	15.9	16.1	16.8	17.6	-1%
Retail trade	13.0	11.5	10.8	10.8	10.0	9.4	-28%
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	15.1	15.0	15.1	14.4	13.2	13.3	-12%
Transport & storage	32.3	33.4	32.7	30.5	28.4	27.6	-15%
Communication services	10.6	11.4	11.1	10.4	9.4	8.2	-23%
Finance & insurance	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.2	3.7	3.5	-20%
Property & business services	10.2	10.1	10.4	10.1	10.3	9.1	-11%
Government administration & defence	12.5	13.2	13.7	12.8	12.2	10.8	-14%
Education	10.6	9.9	10.0	9.9	10.0	9.1	-14%
Health & community services	18.9	18.4	17.9	18.6	18.4	16.2	-14%
Cultural & recreational services	15.0	14.2	13.0	12.1	11.0	10.9	-27%
Personal & other services	20.8	19.7	18.5	19.2	19.0	17.1	-18%
	18.1	17.4	16.9 rious alai	16.7	10.2	15.2	-16%
Agricultura forestry & fishing	15.4	13.6	15 7	14 Q	14.3	14 3	-7%
Agriculture, forestry & fishing Mining	13.4	13.5	12.0	11.6	10.6	86	-34%
Manufacturing	15.9	15.8	15.0	15.4	15.0	15.2	-4%
Electricity gas & water supply	7.9	74	6.0	5.9	6.3	4.6	-42%
Construction	15.9	14.8	14.6	14.3	13.5	12.9	-19%
Wholesale trade	9.2	8.8	8.2	8.5	8.8	9.3	1%
Retail trade	9.5	84	7.9	8.0	7.2	6.9	-27%
Accommodation cafes & restaurants	10.8	11.0	11.0	10.8	9.8	9.9	-8%
Transport & storage	16.5	17.2	16.4	15.5	14.6	14.5	-12%
Communication services	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.0	4.5	-21%
Finance & insurance	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	-21%
Property & business services	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.3	-9%
Government administration & defence	7.1	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.1	6.3	-11%
Education	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	5.7	-12%
Health & community services	13.2	13.0	12.6	13.3	13.0	11.4	-14%
Cultural & recreational services	11.0	10.2	9.5	9.1	8.2	8.3	-25%
Personal & other services	13.1	12.6	11.6	12.1	11.7	10.8	-18%
All claims	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.7	9.2	-14%

Table 8 Serious claims: number of claims, incidence rate and frequency rate by industry by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06

Industry	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	
		Median	time lost	(working	weeks)		% chg ^(a)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.6	2%
Mining	4.0	3.4	3.0	3.8	3.6	3.8	-5%
Manufacturing	3.4	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.2	-6%
Electricity, gas & water supply	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.2	10%
Construction	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.0	4.0	-5%
Wholesale trade	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8	0%
Retail trade	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	9%
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	-6%
Transport & storage	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5%
Communication services	3.5	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.6	3%
Finance & insurance	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.0	-7%
Property & business services	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.0	-5%
Government administration & defence	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.4	13%
Education	3.4	4.0	4.6	4.2	4.0	3.9	15%
Health & community services	4.0	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.2	5%
Cultural & recreational services	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.0	-5%
Personal & other services	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.2	4.0	4.5	10%
All serious claims	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	0%
		N	ledian pa	yment (\$)			% chg
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4 200	4 300	4 500	4 700	4 800	5 100	21%
Mining	10 000	10 300	9 400	10 600	10 200	10 400	4%
Manufacturing	5 700	6 100	5 900	6 300	6 300	6 100	7%
Electricity, gas & water supply	6 000	7 800	7 500	8 000	8 200	7 900	32%
Construction	6 800	7 100	6 900	7 100	7 200	7 300	7%
Wholesale trade	5 500	5 900	5 800	6 000	6 200	5 900	7%
Retail trade	4 100	4 400	4 400	4 700	4 900	5 100	24%
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	3 700	3 600	3 500	3 600	3 900	3 500	-5%
Transport & storage	5 000	5 400	5 400	6 000	6 400	6 300	26%
Communication services	7 500	9 100	9 400	8 500	8 100	8 300	11%
Finance & insurance	8 200	8 200	8 100	9 000	9 100	9 500	16%
Property & business services	5 300	5 600	5 600	5 600	5 600	5 300	0%
Government administration & defence	6 000	6 100	6 300	7 200	6 800	7 700	28%
Education	5 300	6 400	7 200	7 600	7 600	7 800	47%
Health & community services	4 700	5 000	4 900	4 900	4 900	5 200	11%
Cultural & recreational services	4 900	5 300	5 300	5 600	5 700	5 200	6%
Personal & other services	6 700	6 600	7 400	7 200	7 000	8 100	21%
All serious claims	5 300	5 700	5 700	6 000	6 100	6 100	15%

Table 9 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by industry by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

In contrast the Mining industry has consistently recorded the highest median payments (\$10 400 in 2005–06), linked to the relatively high salaries in the Mining industry since the median time lost from work by employees in this industry are similar to the all claims median.

The highest percentage increase (47%) in median payments was recorded by the Education industry. This industry also recorded the highest percentage increase in time lost (15%). The Electricity, gas and water supply industry also recorded a substantial increase in median payments (32%) in line with the increase in time lost (10%). Increases in payments also reflect increases in wages and salaries and the cost of medical treatment.

These median payments are based on the cumulative costs of serious claims lodged in a particular year: they are not a summary of the payments of all open claims in any one year. The reader should also note that median payments are subject to revision as updated data on open claims are received in subsequent years. The payments tabulated are those current at the time of publication and are not adjusted for inflation (expressed as constant prices) because compensation is generally paid in cumulative sums over a period.

Trends by occupation

Table 10 shows that over the six-year period from 2000–01 to 2005–06 the number of serious claims decreased in 6 of the 9 occupation groups, though the remaining three groups increased by 3% or less. The largest percentage decrease in the number of claims over this period (25%) occurred among Advanced clerical and service workers. This group represents only 4% of employees and accounted for 1% of claims in 2005–06. The Intermediate production and transport workers group recorded the next largest decrease (13%) followed by Managers and administrators (10%). Professionals account for the greatest proportion of employees (20%) with this group recording a slight increase in the number of claims lodged over the six-year period.

Industry	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06					
		Number of serious claims									
Managers & administrators	3075	3040	3410	3355	3170	2765	-10%				
Professionals	11860	12050	11855	11765	11905	12025	1%				
Associate professionals	10005	10305	9810	9645	10095	9320	-7%				
Tradespersons & related workers	29165	27090	26610	26985	26475	27250	-7%				
Advanced clerical & service workers	1425	1345	1305	1285	1310	1075	-25%				
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	15905	16370	15570	16745	16410	16420	3%				
Intermediate production & transport workers	27710	25915	24255	24635	24635	24010	-13%				
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	10260	10195	10340	10220	10460	9450	-8%				
Labourers & related workers	33915	32620	36855	36345	36795	34155	1%				
Total claims ^(b)	144740	140320	140345	141325	141440	136570	-6%				
	Incidence rate (serious claims per 1000 employees) 9										
Managers & administrators	29.1	26.6	30.4	27.3	26.5	25.9	-11%				
Professionals	29.8	30.4	27.9	26.2	24.2	19.1	-36%				
Associate professionals	30.3	30.2	29.1	29.3	29.1	28.8	-5%				
Tradespersons & related workers	14.6	14.0	11.1	11.0	12.0	8.3	-43%				
Advanced clerical & service workers	31.4	28.6	28.7	28.1	26.4	25.0	-20%				
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	17.8	17.1	15.9	16.1	16.8	17.6	-1%				
Intermediate production & transport workers	13.0	11.5	10.8	10.8	10.0	9.4	-28%				
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	15.1	15.0	15.1	14.4	13.2	13.3	-12%				
Labourers & related workers	32.3	33.4	32.7	30.5	28.4	27.6	-15%				
All claims	18.1	17.4	16.9	16.7	16.2	15.2	-16%				
	Frequenc	y rates (se	rious clair	ns per mi	llion hours	s worked)	% chg ^(a)				
Managers & administrators	15.4	13.6	15.7	14.9	14.3	14.3	-7%				
Professionals	13.0	13.5	12.0	11.6	10.6	8.6	-34%				
Associate professionals	15.9	15.8	15.0	15.4	15.1	15.2	-4%				
Tradespersons & related workers	7.9	7.4	6.0	5.9	6.3	4.6	-42%				
Advanced clerical & service workers	15.9	14.8	14.6	14.3	13.5	12.9	-19%				
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	9.2	8.8	8.2	8.5	8.8	9.3	1%				
Intermediate production & transport workers	9.5	8.4	7.9	8.0	7.2	6.9	-27%				
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	10.8	11.0	11.0	10.8	9.8	9.9	-8%				
Labourers & related workers	16.5	17.2	16.4	15.5	14.6	14.5	-12%				
All claims	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.7	9.2	-14%				

Table 10 Serious claims: number of claims, incidence rate and frequency rate by occupation by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06 (b) includes claims where occupation was not stated

Occupation	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06		
		Median	time lost	(working	weeks)		% chg ^(a)	
Managers & administrators	4.7	4.4	4.9	4.2	4.6	4.5	-4%	
Professionals	3.9	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.0	4.2	7%	
Associate professionals	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.0	4.2	7%	
Tradespersons & related workers	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	-2%	
Advanced clerical & service workers	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.2	4.0	-5%	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	4.0	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.1	3%	
Intermediate production & transport workers	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8	0%	
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	3.4	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	12%	
Labourers & related workers	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.6	-4%	
All serious claims	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	0%	
	Median payment (\$)							
Managers & administrators	9 400	9 400	9 700	9 900	10 200	10 300	10%	
Professionals	6 200	7 100	7 200	7 400	7 100	8 000	29%	
Associate professionals	6 300	6 500	6 800	7 000	6 800	7 500	19%	
Tradespersons & related workers	5 400	5 800	5 500	5 800	6 100	6 000	11%	
Advanced clerical & service workers	6 300	7 200	6 900	7 400	7 600	7 200	14%	
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	5 300	5 300	5 500	5 600	5 800	5 600	6%	
Intermediate production & transport workers	5 800	6 000	6 200	6 500	6 700	6 600	14%	
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	4 300	4 600	4 700	5 000	5 200	5 200	21%	
Labourers & related workers	4 600	4 900	4 800	5 100	5 100	5 000	9%	
All serious claims	5 300	5 700	5 700	6 000	6 100	6 100	15%	

Table 11 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by occupation by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Incidence rate

Frequency rate

related workers recorded the largest percentage fall in incidence rates over the sixyear period (43%). Professionals also recorded a substantial fall in incidence rates (down 36%), as did Intermediate production and transport workers (down 28%). Advanced clerical and service workers recorded a 20% decrease in incidence rates that was solely due to the decrease in claim numbers. Frequency rates by occupation shows a similar pattern to that observed for

Incidence rates have fallen in all occupations since 2000–01. Tradespersons and

incidence rates with Tradespersons and related workers recording the largest percentage fall (42%) followed by Professionals (34%). Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers was the only occupation to record an increase, up by 1%.

Time lost Table 11 shows that Managers and administrators recorded the highest median time lost from work in most of the last six years, consistently recording time lost between 4.2 working weeks and 4.8 working weeks. The lowest median time lost was generally recorded by Tradespersons and related workers with time lost in the range 3.4 to 3.6 working weeks.

> Increases in median time lost were recorded by four of the nine occupation groups. The greatest increase was recorded by the Elementary clerical, sales and service workers group (up 12% from 3.4 working weeks lost to 3.8) followed by Professionals and Associate professionals both of which increased 7% from 3.9 to 4.2. Decreases of up to 0.2 working weeks over the six-year period were recorded by four occupation groups with one group recording no change.

Payments Table 11 also shows that median payments increased in all occupation groups over the six-year period. The greatest percentage increase in median payments occurred in the Professionals group which increased 29%, from \$6200 in 2000–02 to \$8000 in 2005–06.

Elementary clerical, sales and service workers recorded the second largest percentage increase in median payments (21%) though this group has consistently recorded the lowest or second lowest median payments of all groups. The smallest percentage increase in the median payments was recorded in Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, which recorded a 6% increase from \$5300 in 2000–01 to \$5600 in 2005–06.

The table also shows that Managers and administrators consistently had the highest median payments for serious claims; 1.7 times greater than the median payments for all claims, reflecting the high salaries associated with this occupation and the longer time lost. The lowest median payments for serious claims in 2005–06 was recorded by the Labourers and related workers group (\$5000), which has consistently recorded the lowest or second lowest payments for serious claims throughout the data collection period. This group also had relatively lower time lost from work.

Median payments are based on the cumulative payments for serious claims lodged in a particular year. They are not a summary of the payments of all open claims in any one year. Median payments are subject to revision as updated data on open claims are received in subsequent years. The payments tabulated are those current at the time of publication and are not adjusted for inflation (expressed as constant prices) because compensation is generally paid in cumulative sums over a period.

Trends by nature of injury or disease

Serious workers' compensation claims are coded by the *Nature of injury or disease* classification. This classification identifies the most serious injury or disease sustained by the employee and allows claims to be divided into those involving injuries and those involving diseases. However, due to changes in this classification affecting data from 2003–04, claims involving *Diseases of the musculoskeletal system* have been combined with *Strains and sprains* and reported as injuries rather than disease. This amalgamation is only shown in this section (for further explanation see Appendix 1 — Explanatory note 8).

Table 12 shows that *Injury and musculoskeletal disorder* claims represent on average 86% of all serious claims with the 7% decrease in this group (from 126 915 claims in 2000–01 to 117 930 in 2005–06) mirroring the 6% decrease for all serious claims. In contrast, serious claims involving *Other disease* (diseases excluding *Musculoskeletal disorders*) increased 4% from 17 730 claims in 2000–01 to 18 455 in 2005–06.

Table 12 also shows that over the six-year period spanning 2000–01 to 2005–06, the number of serious claims decreased in most nature categories. Notable exceptions include claims related to *Neoplasms* (cancers), which increased by 72% (from 125 claims in 2000–01 to 215 claims in 2005–06); *Intracranial injury, including concussion,* which increased by 37% (from 450 claims to 615); *Diseases of the digestive system,* which increased by 14% (from 3250 claims to 3690); *Fracture of vertebral column,* which increased by 10% (from 385 claims to 425); and *Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue,* which increased by 8% (from 865 claims to 930). However, it should be noted that the small claim numbers in many of these categories would be contributing to the large percentage changes.

The increase in serious claims related to *Neoplasms* was largely driven by the increase in claims for *Mesothelioma* (a disease related to past asbestos exposure) that increased by 89% (from 45 to 85 claims over the past six years with a peak at 110 claims). However it is known that many instances of this disease are not reported to workers' compensation authorities and the numbers shown in this publication should be treated with caution. For more information see *Mesothelioma in Australia, March 2008*, available from the ASCC website.

Notable decreases over the period were in *Superficial injury* which decreased 45% from 1570 claims down to 870 over the period; *Multiple injuries* which decreased 35% from 680 claims down to 445; and *Diseases of the circulatory system* which decreased 35% from 240 claims down to 155.

Table 12 Serious claims: number	of claims by nature of ir	njury or disease	by year	
Nature of injury or disease	2000-01 2001-02 2002-03	2003–04 2004–05	2005–06	%chg ^(e)

Injury & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	126915	122380	122155	122175	121765	117930	-7%
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	84240	82210	80925	81520	80365	76465	-9%
Fractures	11300	10845	11060	11100	11165	11410	1%
Open wound not involving traumatic amputation	12190	11120	11240	11275	11375	11030	-10%
Contusion with intact skin surface & crushing injury ^(b)	9585	9095	9510	9480	9780	9555	0%
Burns	2245	2055	2205	1925	1960	2085	-7%
Dislocation	1005	1015	1045	965	1055	1500	49%
Superficial injury	1570	1435	1120	940	1060	870	-45%
Traumatic amputation (inc loss of eyeball)	760	695	665	620	635	720	-5%
Foreign body in eye, ear nose etc ^(c)	755	685	755	680	630	715	-5%
Intracranial injury, including concussion	450	425	475	435	430	615	37%
Multiple injuries	680	660	710	715	550	445	-35%
Fracture of vertebral column	385	350	370	335	405	425	10%
Poisoning & toxic effects of substances	415	375	385	345	350	300	-28%
Other disease	17730	17850	18115	19070	19555	18455	4%
Mental disorders	6810	7445	7820	7900	7760	6890	1%
Diseases of the nervous system & sense organs	5475	5320	4860	5205	5740	5625	3%
Deafness	3745	3760	3190	3365	3705	3710	-1%
Disorders of nerve roots, plexuses and single nerves	1440	1265	1375	1455	1635	1545	7%
Diseases of the digestive system	3250	2860	3140	3445	3645	3690	14%
Hernia	3230	2840	3120	3425	3630	3680	14%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	865	855	885	915	920	930	8%
Contact dermatitis	265	310	305	285	345	300	13%
Diseases of the respiratory system	450	455	485	525	575	405	-10%
Asbestosis	140	150	145	170	205	205	46%
Common cold, flu, bronchitis & pneumonia ^(d)	140	150	190	170	225	95	-32%
Asthma	90	75	65	80	60	45	-50%
Infectious and parasitic diseases	285	315	315	350	330	370	30%
Neoplasms (cancers & benign tumours)	125	195	165	250	240	215	72%
Malignant neoplasm of pleura (mesothelioma)	45	80	80	110	110	85	89%
Diseases of the circulatory system	240	210	265	240	170	155	-35%
Ischaemic heart disease	100	80	110	90	55	60	-40%
Other diseases	225	190	175	235	175	175	-22%
Total claims	144 740	140 320	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 570	-6%

(a) See Appendix 1 — Explanatory note 8, p.78 for more details of this classification combination.

(b) Excluding those with fractures.

(c) Including respiratory, digestive or reproductive systems.

(d) Classified as Other diseases of the respiratory system in TOOCS2.1

(e) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Time lost

Table 13 shows that In 2000–01, the median time lost for *Injury and musculoskeletal disorder* claims was 3.7 working weeks (Table 13). This increased to 4.0 working weeks in the two following years and then reduced to 3.8 working weeks lost from 2003–04 onwards. A similar pattern was recorded for the *Other disease* category though the increase was much larger with median time lost increasing from 4.0 working weeks lost in 2000–01 to a peak of 4.6 working weeks lost in 2002–03 and then returning to the lower level of 4.2 working weeks lost in 2005–06.

Among claims involving injuries, *Fracture of vertebral column* resulted in the longest time lost from work, around 13 weeks across the period 2000–01 to 2005–06 nearly double the next highest, *Dislocation* with 6.9 weeks time lost in 2005–06. Lengthy time lost was also recorded for *Fractures* (6.6 working weeks) and *Traumatic amputation* (6.3 working weeks). The other injury categories generally recorded median time lost between 2 and 4 working weeks.

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Table 13 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by nature of injury or disease by year

Nature of injury or disease	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004–05	2005-06	% chg ^(d)
		Median	time lost	(working	g weeks)		
Injury & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	3.7	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	3%
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	0%
Fractures	6.5	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	2%
Open wound not involving traumatic amputation	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	0%
Contusion with intact skin surface & crushing injury ^(b)	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.4	2.6	2.5	4%
Burns	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0%
Dislocation	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.9	-1%
Superficial injury	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0%
Traumatic amputation (inc. loss of eyeball)	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.3	-2%
Foreign body in eye, ear nose etc ^(c)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.6	-6%
Intracranial injury, including concussion	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.8	17%
Multiple injuries	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.6	3.8	4.4	-15%
Fracture of vertebral column	11.8	13.2	14.6	14.6	13.4	13.4	14%
Poisoning & toxic effects of substances	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.8	2.0	2.0	0%
Other disease	4.0	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.2	5%
Mental disorders	10.7	10.6	10.0	10.2	9.8	10.4	-3%
Diseases of the nervous system & sense organs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**
Diseases of the digestive system	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.6	5.4	-7%
Diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	4%
Diseases of the respiratory system	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.0	2.2	69%
Infectious & parasitic diseases	2.0	2.1	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	5%
Neoplasms (cancers & benign tumours)	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**
Diseases of the circulatory system	5.2	7.0	7.4	8.8	7.5	6.6	27%
Other diseases	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.0	4.3	3.2	-24%
All claims	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	0%
		Ν	Median pa	ayment (S	\$)		
Injury & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	4 700	5 100	5 000	5 200	5 300	5 300	13%
Sprains, strains & musculoskeletal disorders ^(a)	5 300	5 700	5 600	5 900	6 000	6 100	15%
Fractures	6 300	6 700	6 900	7 300	7 600	7 700	22%
Open wound not involving traumatic amputation	2 300	2 400	2 300	2 600	2 700	2 900	26%
Contusion with infact skin surface & crushing injury ^(b)	2 700	2 700	2 700	2 800	3 000	3 000	11%
Burns	1 400	1 500	1 400	1 500	1 700	1 700	21%
Dislocation	9 100	9 100	8 500	8 300	8 900	10 400	14%
Superficial injury	1 900	2 200	2 200	2 300	2 400	2 500	32%
Traumatic amputation (inc.loss of eyeball)	17 700	16 600	17 600	19 300	19 300	17 600	-1%
Foreign body in eye, ear nose etc ^(c)	1 400	1 400	1 200	1 100	1 300	1 300	-7%
Intracranial injury, including concussion	3 000	3 100	3 800	4 200	4 200	4 100	37%
Multiple injuries	25 700	21 800	15 500	16 900	19 600	18 600	-28%
Fracture of vertebral column	22 200	25 400	21 200	26 600	18 500	18 300	-18%
Poisoning & toxic effects of substances	2 200	2 300	2 000	2 200	1 900	2 100	-5%
Other disease	8 700	9 100	9 400	9 900	9 800	9 900	14%
Mental disorders	14 200	13 700	12 900	13 200	13 500	15 100	6%
Diseases of the nervous system & sense organs	9 500	9 700	10 300	10 700	10 500	10 300	8%
Diseases of the digestive system	6 900	7 100	7 500	7 900	8 100	8 700	26%
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	2 200	2 400	2 400	2 500	2 700	3 000	36%
Diseases of the respiratory system	23 500	23 200	27 200	17 700	21 500	13 300	-43%
Infectious & parasitic diseases	1 500	1 900	2 400	1 800	1 900	1 900	27%
Neoplasms (cancers & benign tumours)	31 100	49 200	41 700	28 300	31 400	20 400	-34%
Diseases of the circulatory system	29 600	22 000	22 700	18 500	17 100	13 800	-53%
Other diseases	6 800	7 300	7 300	7 300	8 100	5 500	-19%
All claims	5 300	5 700	5 700	6 000	6 100	6 100	15%

(a) See Appendix 1 — Explanatory note 8, p.78 for more details of this classification combination.
(b) Excluding those with fractures.
(c) Including respiratory, digestive or reproductive systems.
(d) Percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06

The largest percentage increase in time lost of all the injury categories was recorded for claims involving *Intracranial injury, including concussion,* increasing 17% from 2.4 working weeks to 2.8. The most notable decrease in median time lost was recorded for claims involving *Multiple injury* which decreased 15% from 5.2 working weeks in 2000–01 to 4.4 in 2005–06.

Among claims involving disease, *Diseases of the respiratory system* recorded the largest percentage increase in time lost (69%) from 1.3 working weeks in 2000–01 to 2.2 in 2005–06. This is related to the large decrease in the number of *Asbetosis* claims that had zero time lost and the increase in claims for *Common colds, influenza, bronchitis and pnuemonia* that increased from 4.4 working weeks of time lost to 5.0 over the period.

Serious claims involving *Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs* had a zero median time lost. This is because of the very high proportion of *Deafness* claims in this category which generally involve no absence from work.

Payments

Similar to the time lost figures, Table 13 shows that median payments increased slightly less for *Injuries, poisoning and musculoskeletal disorders* (up 13% from \$4700 in 2000–01 to \$5300 in 2005–06) than *Other disease* claims (up 14% from \$8700 in 2000–01 to \$9900 in 2005–06). *Other disease* claims are more expensive because they typically involve more time off from work.

The largest percentage increase in median payments was recorded for claims involving *Intracranial injury, including concussion,* with payments up 37% from \$3000 to \$4100. The 13% increase in time lost from work would have contributed to this increased median payments with other factors being increased salary and medical expenses.

Out of the injury categories, *Multiple injuries* recorded the highest percentage fall in median payments (28%) contributed partly by the 15% decrease in median time lost for this category. Although *Fracture of the vertebral column* increased 12% in median time lost, it recorded the second highest percentage decrease (18%) in median payments (from 22 200 in 2000–01 to 18 300 in 2005–06).

Of the disease categories, *Diseases of the circulatory system* recorded the largest percentage decrease in median payments, 53% from \$29 600 in 2000–01 to \$13 800 in 2005–06. There has been a considerable shift in the types of claims contributing to this group which also resulted in a large increase in the median time lost from work (27%). Of particular note is the very large decrease in median payments for *Ischaemic heart disease* which fell from \$54 200 to \$18 200 over the period.

Two other disease categories had notable decreases in median payments, *Diseases of the respiratory system* (43%) and *Neoplasms (cancers and benign tumours)* (34%). *Diseases of the respiratory system* also had a small decrease in the number of claims but conversely a large percentage increase in median time lost (69%). *Neoplasms*, on the other hand, had no change in median time lost but a large increase in the number of claims (72%). The decrease in median payments for *Neoplasms* can probably be attributed to changes in the distribution of claims within this category over time. Despite the decrease in median payments, *Neoplasms (cancers and benign tumours)* had the largest median payments in 2005–06 (\$20 400), more than three times the median payment for all claims.

The largest percentage increase in median payments within *Other diseases* category was found in *Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue*, which rose 36% from \$2200 to \$3000. This group of diseases had an 8% increase in the number of claims and a 4% increase in the median time lost from work.

Trends by bodily location of injury or disease

Bodily location refers to the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. Table 14 shows that *Upper limbs* consistently recorded the highest number of claims in all six years. This group accounted for around one-third of claims in all years and recorded a 4% decrease in claim numbers over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, slightly smaller than the 6% recorded for all claims. The *Trunk* accounted for around 30% of claims in all years and recorded one of the largest percentage decreases in claim numbers at 11%. Over 80% of claims attributed to this location were for the upper or lower back as opposed to the front of the trunk. The decrease was therefore due to a fall in back injuries.

The greatest percentage decrease was recorded for claims involving the *Neck* which decreased 16% from 3975 claims in 2000–01 to 3325 claims in 2005–06. This location accounted for 2% of claims in 2005–06.

The second highest percentage decrease was recorded for claims with *Multiple locations* as the location. This decrease could be due to better identification of the site of the most serious injury or that there were a decreasing number of injuries affecting a number of body parts.

While *Unspecified locations* recorded an 18% increase, this was due to the very small number of claims coded to this group.

<i>Table 14</i> Serious claims: number of claims	y bodily locat	ion of injury or	disease by year
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Bodily location	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	%chg ^(a)
Upper limbs	45 480	43 750	44 110	44 240	44 590	43 645	-4%
Trunk	44 780	42 325	42 040	42 490	41 535	39 735	-11%
Lower limbs	27 700	26 805	26 785	27 035	27 605	27 790	0%
Head	8 100	8 090	7 555	7 675	7 855	8 150	1%
Non-physical locations	6 810	7 425	7 820	7 875	7 745	6 890	1%
Multiple locations	6 925	6 845	7 225	7 510	7 660	6 085	-12%
Neck	3 975	4 050	3 620	3 455	3 465	3 325	-16%
Systematic locations	780	770	835	830	810	720	-8%
Unspecified locations	190	265	350	205	170	225	18%
Total serious claims	144 740	140 320	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 575	-6%

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Trends by mechanism of injury or disease

The *Mechanism of injury or disease* classification is used to identify the action, exposure or event which was the direct cause of the most serious injury or disease. Table 15 shows the mechanisms ranked in descending order with *Body Stressing* as the most prevalent mechanism of injury, consistently accounting for just over 40% of serious claims over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06. The 7% decrease in the number of *Body Stressing* claims over the six-year period mirrors the 6% fall in claims overall.

Falls, trips and slips of a person was the second most common mechanism and consistently represented around 20% of all serious claims over the period. There has been little change in the number of claims due to this mechanism over the six-year period.

Table 15 also shows that over the six-year period the number of serious claims decreased in all but four of the ten mechanism categories, although where there were increases they were very small. *Other and unspecified mechanisms* recorded the largest decrease: 25% (from 10 445 claims in 2000–01 to 7860 in 2005–06). This mechanism includes vehicle accidents, cases were there were multiple

mechanisms as well as cases where the mechanism was not known. It is falls in the number of claims in this latter group, mechanism not known, that has produced the largest fall over time (the number of claims fell 50% from 6085 to 3130 over the six years). It is possible this is due to better coding practices with increases or smaller falls in the other mechanism categories occurring as a result. The number of claims due to *Vehicle accident* has shown little change accounting for around 3000 claims each year.

While *Chemicals and other substances* recorded a 17% fall in the number of claims over the six-year period, this mechanism only accounts for around 1% of all serious claims and the fall only equates to 325 less claims per year.

While the number of claims for *Mental stress* have shown some large increases over the last few years, the number shown for 2005–06 (6600) is similar to 2000–01 (6515). The fall recorded for 2005–06 could be related to legislative changes in a few jurisdictions which require claims to show that the injury or disease has a greater connection to work than was previously required. More information can be found in *Comparison of Workers' Compensation Arrangements in Australia and New Zealand*. Preliminary data for 2006–07 (see Part A) show the number of claims for *Mental stress* continuing this downward trend with 6255 accepted claims so far for 2006–07.

Table 15 Serious claims: number of claims by mechanism of injury or disease by year

Mechanism of injury or disease	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	%chg ^(a)
Body stressing	61 250	58 980	58 150	59 685	59 720	56 695	-7%
Falls, trips & slips of a person	27 535	26 765	27 690	27 430	27 810	27 460	0%
Being hit by moving objects	19 345	18 990	19 655	19 485	19 355	19 730	2%
Hitting objects with a part of the body	11 205	10 030	10 080	9 990	10 175	10 210	-9%
Mental stress	6 515	7 070	7 530	7 650	7 515	6 600	1%
Sound & pressure	3 865	3 845	3 420	3 635	3 920	3 880	0%
Heat, radiation and electricity	2 105	1 955	2 075	1 885	1 935	2 045	-3%
Chemicals & other substances	1 875	1 835	1 785	1 730	1 795	1 550	-17%
Biological factors	600	575	490	540	520	530	-12%
Other & unspecified mechanisms	10 445	10 270	9 470	9 290	8 685	7 860	-25%
Total claims	144 740	140 320	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 575	-6%

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Time lost & payments Table 16 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, there was little movement in median time lost across the mechanisms. *Other and unspecified mechanisms* recorded the largest increase in median time lost which increased 7% from 4.4 working weeks lost in 2000–01 to 4.7 in 2005–06. This change is likely to be linked to the different mix of claims recorded against this mechanism as mentioned in the previous section, with median time lost for *Vehicle accident* not changing much over the time period but time lost for claims where the mechanism was not specified increasing from 3.8 working weeks lost to 4.4. Median payments for this mechanism recorded a 19% increase compared to a 15% increase for all serious claims.

Table 16 also shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, serious claims involving *Mental stress* consistently had the longest median time lost from work: around 10 working weeks. This was more than double the median of 3.8 weeks for all serious claims in 2005–06. The high median time lost for *Mental stress* claims resulted in those claims also having the highest median payments: \$15 500 in 2005–06, more than double the median for all claims of \$6100.

Table 16 Serious claims: median time lost and median payments by mechanism of injury or disease by year (ordered by number of claims)

Mechanism of injury or disease	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	%chg ^(a)				
	Median time lost (working weeks)										
Body stressing	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.4	0%				
Falls, trips & slips of a person	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	0%				
Being hit by moving objects	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	0%				
Hitting objects with a part of the body	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.3	-4%				
Mental stress	10.7	10.5	10.0	10.2	9.9	10.6	-1%				
Sound & pressure ^(b)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%				
Heat, radiation & electricity	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0%				
Chemicals & other substances	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.8	2.0	0%				
Biological factors	2.1	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	-5%				
Other & unspecified mechanisms	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	7%				
All serious claims	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.8	0%				
	Median payment (\$)										
Body stressing	5 900	6 400	6 400	6 400	6 500	6 600	12%				
Falls, trips & slips of a person	5 500	5 600	5 600	5 800	6 000	6 100	11%				
Being hit by moving objects	3 800	4 100	3 800	4 200	4 400	4 500	18%				
Hitting objects with a part of the body	2 500	2 500	2 600	2 800	2 900	3 100	24%				
Mental stress	14 600	13 700	13 200	13 400	13 800	15 500	6%				
Sound & pressure	9 500	9 600	10 200	10 900	10 800	10 200	7%				
Heat, radiation & electricity	1 500	1 700	1 600	1 600	1 800	1 900	27%				
Chemicals & other substances	2 600	3 100	3 200	3 600	3 500	2 700	4%				
Biological factors	1 900	2 200	2 300	1 800	1 900	2 200	16%				
Other & unspecified mechanisms	6 200	6 700	7 100	7 500	7 500	7 400	19%				
All serious claims	5 300	5 700	5 700	6 000	6 100	6 100	15%				

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

(b) Sound and pressure claims generally involve hearing loss where no time is taken off work

Heat, radiation and electricity and *Hitting objects with a part of the body* both recorded large percentage increases in median payments (27% and 24% respectively). However, the median payments of both these groups in 2005–06 were well below the median payments for all serious claims and the increases only equated to between \$400 and \$600 per claim.

Claims involving *Sound and pressure* recorded zero median time lost. This is because of the very high proportion of deafness claims in this category which generally involve no absence from work. This mechanism however recorded the second highest median payments in all six years, most likely due to the payment of lump sum compensation for permanent hearing loss.

Trends by breakdown agency of injury or disease

Breakdown agency of injury or disease refers to the object, substance or circumstance principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong, and ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. Table 17 shows that *Non-powered handtools, appliances and equipment* consistently recorded the highest number of claims across the six years with very little change in claim numbers. Of this group, packing containers such as crates and boxes accounted for around one-quarter of claims.
The most notable change occurred with claims that involved *Other and unspecified agencies* which fell 31% from 25 275 claims in 2000–01 to 17 550 in 2005–06. This agency is for claims where sufficient information has not been obtained to accurately code to a specific agency or where situation rather than object or substance was considered the agency. As the majority of the fall in claim numbers recorded against this agency occurred in the first of these groups, the fall is most likely linked to better coding practices.

Claims for *Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant* also recorded a substantial fall, decreasing 15% from 10 225 claims in 2000–01 to 8710 in 2005–06. Within this agency, claims for *Cutting, slicing, sawing machinery* and *Crushing, pressing, rolling machinery* recorded the greatest falls.

While *Chemicals and chemical products* also recorded a 15% fall, the numbers of claims against this agency were comparatively small, representing less than 1% of all serious claims.

The only agency to record a notable increase in claim numbers was *Materials and substances* which increased 8% from 15 925 claims in 2000–01 to 17 210 in 2005–06. Increases in claims involving *Ferrous and non-ferrous metal* accounted for half of the increase due to this agency.

Agency of injury or disease	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	%chg ^(a)
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	36 400	34 510	35 590	35 855	36 830	36 090	-1%
Environmental agencies	21 420	21 160	20 825	20 895	21 425	21 290	-1%
Materials & substances	15 925	15 325	16 500	16 530	16 945	17 210	8%
Animal, human & biological agencies	14 500	15 240	15 515	16 060	15 785	14 950	3%
Mobile plant and transport	12 505	11 765	12 250	12 475	12 810	12 355	-1%
Machinery & (mainly) fixed plant	10 225	9 160	9 015	8 915	9 085	8 710	-15%
Powered equipment, tools & appliances	7 010	6 950	6 895	7 000	7 235	7 145	2%
Chemicals & chemical products	1 480	1 470	1 380	1 290	1 335	1 265	-15%
Other & unspecified agencies	25 275	24 735	22 375	22 310	19 990	17 550	-31%
Total claims	144 730	140 310	140 345	141 325	141 440	136 575	-6%

Table 17 Serious claims: number of claims by agency of injury or disease by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Part C Compensated fatalities

Preliminary data from 2006–07 has 236 accepted workers' compensation claims for the death of an employee due to work-related causes. However as workers' compensation schemes do not generally cover self-employed workers and workers' compensation claims can only be lodged where there is a dependant to do so, this number is not an accurate count of all work-related deaths in Australia. To address this situation, an analysis of other sources of information on work-related deaths has been undertaken, with results published in the report *Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities, Australia* available on the ASCC website. This chapter presents an analysis of the 236 accepted compensation claims for work-related fatalities lodged in 2006–07. Information on fatalities related to journeys to or from work is provided in Part E: Feature article - Journey claims.

Compensated fatalities by age and gender

The 236 compensated deaths equates to an incidence rate of 2.5 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees. However, as the 2006–07 data are preliminary, the rate is expected to rise with the finalisation of all claims lodged during 2006–07.

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show that work-related compensated fatalities mainly involved male employees. Of the 236 fatalities, 215 were male employees (91%) and 21 were female employees (9%). Table 18 shows that male employees had a fatality incidence rate almost 9 times that of female employees in 2006–07 and a frequency rate 8 times that of females when expressed as a rate per 100 million hours worked.

	Number	% of claims	Incidence rate ^(a)	Frequency rate ^(b)
Males	215	91.1	4.4	2.4
Females	21	8.9	0.5	0.3
Total	236	100.0	2.5	1.6

Table 18 Fatalities: number, incidence rate and frequency rate by gender, 2006–07p

(a) Calculated as a rate per 100 000 employees.

(b) Calculated as a rate per 100 million hours worked.

Table 19 shows how the number, incidence and frequency rates vary by age for the 236 compensated fatalities recorded in 2006–07. The 40–44 years age group recorded the highest number of fatalities (15% of all fatalities). However, the incidence and frequency rates for this age group were not the highest because of the relatively large number of employees in this age group. The highest incidence and frequency rates were recorded by the three oldest age groups: 55–59 years, 60–64 years and 65 years and over.

Table 19 also shows that the fewest compensated fatalities occurred in the youngest age group, in part, due to the smaller number of employees in this age group.

There were 23 fatalities recorded where the employee was aged 65 years and over, however, because relatively few employees continue working beyond 65 years of age, this age group recorded the highest incidence and frequency rates (17 fatalities per 100 000 employees and 12 fatalities per 100 million hours worked respectively), over six times the rate for all age groups.

	Nu	mber of fatalit	Incidence	Frequency	
Age group	Males	Females	Total	rate ^(a)	rate ^(b)
15-19 years	6	2	8	1.1	1.1
20-24 years	14	2	16	1.4	0.9
25-29 years	8	3	11	1.0	0.6
30-34 years	23	1	24	2.3	1.4
35-39 years	25	2	27	2.5	1.5
40-44 years	33	2	35	3.3	1.9
45-49 years	17	4	21	1.9	1.1
50-54 years	17	4	21	2.3	1.3
55-59 years	29	1	30	4.3	2.6
60-64 years	20	0	20	5.7	3.7
65 years & over	23	0	23	16.5	12.0
Total	215	21	236	2.5	1.6

Table 19 Fatalities: number, incidence rate and frequency rate by age and gender, 2006–07p

(a) Fatalities per 100 000 employees.

(b) Fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

Compensated fatalities by industry

Table 20 shows that in 2006–07, the Construction industry recorded the highest number of fatalities in any industry (50 fatalities, 21% of all compensated fatalities). The second highest number of fatalities occurred in the Transport and storage industry (45 fatalities), followed by the Manufacturing industry (36 fatalities) and the Property and business services industry (15 fatalities).

Table 20 Fatalities: number, incidence rate and frequency rate by industry (ranked on incidence rate), 2006–07p

	Nu	mber of fatali	Incidence	Frequency	
Industry	Males	Females	Total	rate ^(a)	rate ^(b)
Transport & storage	44	1	45	10.8	5.7
Construction	50	0	50	7.8	4.1
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	12	2	14	7.7	4.2
Mining	7	0	7	5.4	2.4
Manufacturing	34	2	36	3.7	2.0
Personal & other services	10	1	11	3.3	2.2
Government administration & defence	6	5	11	2.3	1.4
Wholesale trade	8	1	9	2.1	1.1
Cultural & recreational services	5	0	5	1.9	1.5
Communication services	2	1	3	1.8	1.0
Property & business services	13	2	15	1.3	0.7
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	5	1	6	1.2	0.9
Retail trade	10	2	12	0.9	0.7
Education	3	1	4	0.6	0.4
Finance & insurance	1	1	2	0.5	0.3
Health & community services	4	1	5	0.5	0.3
Electricity, gas & water supply	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Industry not stated	1	0	1		
Total	215	21	236	2.5	1.6

(a) Fatalities per 100 000 employees.

(b) Fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

When the number of fatalities is expressed as an incidence rate, the Transport and storage industry recorded the highest rate of 11 fatalities per 100 000 employees, over four times the rate for all industries of 2.5 fatalities per 100 000 employees. While the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the fifth highest number of fatalities, the lower number of employees resulted in this industry recording the third highest incidence rate (8 fatalities per 100 000 employees). The Construction industry recorded the second highest incidence rate (8).

As the majority of fatalities involved male employees, the pattern for male employees by industry is similar to the national pattern described above. The highest number of compensated male fatalities (50) occurred in the Construction industry followed by the Transport and storage industry (44) and the Manufacturing industry (34).

The highest number of female compensated fatalities (5) occurred in the Government, administration and defence industry. This was followed by 2 female fatalities each in the Manufacturing, Property and business services, Agriculture, forestry and fishing and the Retail trade industries.

Figure 16 shows the industry sub-categories in which the highest numbers of compensated fatalities occurred in 2006–07. Together, the fifteen industry sub-categories shown accounted for half of all fatalities. At this level of detail, the highest number of fatalities (31 fatalities, 13% of all fatalities) involved employees in the Road freight transport sub-category and mainly involved vehicle accidents. The second highest number of fatalities (16 fatalities, 7% of all fatalities) involved employees in the Installation trade services industry (which includes plumbing and draining works, as well as electrical wiring or fitting in buildings). Equal third highest number of fatalities (10 fatalities each — 4% of all fatalities) occurred in the Government administration and Non-building construction sub-categories.



Figure 16 Fatalities: fifteen highest industry sub-categories, 2006–07p

Compensated fatality claims by industry over time

In the analysis of trends, data from the most recent year are not used for comparison as these data are preliminary data and are likely to increase. It should also be noted that data for early years can also be revised as claims data in this publication are based on the date the claim was first lodged and there can be many years between a claim being lodged for ill health and the eventual death of the employee.

Table 21 shows that over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, the number of fatalities in Australia decreased 21% — from 320 deaths down to 254. The decrease was also reflected in the overall incidence rate reducing from 4.0 compensated fatalities per 100 000 employees to 2.8.

Industry	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
			Number o	of fatalities		
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	29	27	27	28	31	24
Mining	18	10	12	8	6	14
Manufacturing	45	40	33	32	38	40
Electricity, gas & water supply	2	4	2	3	3	9
Construction	48	48	48	51	45	38
Wholesale trade	15	12	13	18	9	6
Retail trade	13	11	10	10	12	13
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	6	5	5	12	9	4
Transport & storage	57	58	68	47	48	47
Communication services	2	4	5	3	3	3
Finance & insurance	7	4	3	2	1	1
Property & business services	19	21	21	17	14	28
Government administration & defence	15	19	21	14	11	5
Education	9	6	10	5	5	4
Health & community services	8	18	8	6	5	4
Cultural & recreational services	9	4	7	4	5	2
Personal & other services	16	15	9	11	9	9
Industry not stated	2	2	0	0	1	3
Total fatalities	320	308	302	271	255	254
	lı	ncidence ra	te (fatalities	per 100 00	0 employee	s)
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	14.3	12.4	14.7	14.8	16.6	13.2
Mining	24.0	13.1	14.5	8.8	6.0	11.4
Manufacturing	4.3	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.9	4.2
Electricity, gas & water supply	3.0	6.0	2.7	4.0	4.0	10.6
Construction	11.1	11.1	10.7	10.2	8.3	6.7
Wholesale trade	3.8	3.1	3.3	4.5	2.3	1.5
Retail trade	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	1.3	1.1	1.1	2.6	1.8	0.8
Transport & storage	15.9	16.6	19.5	12.5	12.1	11.6
Communication services	1.3	2.9	3.6	2.1	2.1	1.9
Finance & insurance	2.2	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3
Property & business services	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.3	2.5
Government administration & defence	3.9	4.6	4.9	3.2	2.4	1.1
Education	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.7	0.6
Health & community services	0.9	2.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.4
Cultural & recreational services	4.3	1.8	3.1	1.8	2.0	0.8
Personal & other services	5.7	5.1	2.9	3.6	2.8	2.8
All fatalities	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.8

Table 21 Fatalities: number and incidence rate by industry by year

(a) percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06

While Table 21 shows that fatality incidence rates improved in most industries over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, four industries continued to record considerably higher rates than the national rate. While the national rate in 2005–06 was 2.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees, Agriculture, forestry and fishing recorded 13 fatalities per 100 000 employees; Transport and storage recorded 12; Mining, 11; and Construction 7. Of these industries, the Mining industry improved the most over this time period, more than halving its incidence rate from 24 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2000–01 to 11 in 2005–06.

While the Electricity, gas and water supply industry recorded a large increase in the number of fatalities (from 2 to 9) and subsequently its incidence rate (from 3 fatalities per 100 000 employees to 10) over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, this industry has so far recorded no fatalities in the preliminary data for 2006–07 (Table 9). Similarly, the Property and business services industry recorded a high number of fatalities in 2005–06 (28 deaths) compared to previous years but has returned to a similar number of deaths (15) in 2005–06. This highlights the volatility of the fatalities data and how movements over specific periods should be treated with caution.

Compensated fatalities by occupation

Table 22 shows the number of compensated fatality claims recorded in each major occupation group in 2006–07. Intermediate production and transport workers accounted for 30% of compensated fatalities in 2006–07 (71 fatalities). This group also recorded the highest incidence and frequency rates: both about three times the respective rate for all compensated fatalities. Within this group, three quarters of fatalities (54) involved Road and rail transport drivers.

The second highest number of fatalities, 53, was recorded by Tradesperson and related workers representing 22% of all compensated fatalities. This group includes mechanical engineering, automotive, electrical, food and skilled agricultural workers (14 fatalities were identified as Electrical and electronics tradespersons and 12 as Construction tradespersons, of which 8 were carpenters). This occupation group recorded the third highest incidence rate.

There were 45 fatalities involving employees who worked as Labourers and related workers which resulted in the second highest incidence rate of all occupation groups (5.6 fatalities per 100 000 employees), more than twice the national rate.

Occupation	Males	Females	Total	Incidence rate ^(a)	Frequency rate ^(b)
Intermediate production & transport workers	69	2	71	8.8	4.9
Labourers & related workers	40	5	45	5.6	4.0
Tradesperson & related workers	53	0	53	5.4	2.8
Managers & administrators	10	3	13	2.1	1.0
Associate professionals	11	3	14	1.2	0.7
Professionals	18	2	20	1.1	0.6
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	8	5	13	0.7	0.5
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	6	1	7	0.7	0.6
Advanced clerical & service workers	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Total fatalities	215	21	236	2.5	1.6

Table 22 Fatalities: number, incidence rate and frequency rate by occupation (ranked on incidence rate), 2006–07p

(a) Fatalities per 100 000 employees.

(b) Fatalities per 100 million hours worked.

As the majority of fatalities involved male employees, the pattern for male employees by occupation is similar to the national pattern described above. About three-quarters (76%) of the males who sustained a fatal work-related injury or disease were employed as either Intermediate production and transport workers (69 male fatalities); Tradespersons and related workers (53 male fatalities); or Labourers and related workers (40 male fatalities). The equal highest number of female fatalities (5) occurred among Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers and Labourers and related workers. This was followed by an equal high number of female fatalities (3) occurring among Manager and administrator workers and Associate professional workers. Figure 17 provides occupation data at a more detailed level with the thirteen groups shown together accounting for 54% of all compensated fatalities in 2006–07p. This figure shows that Truck drivers recorded the highest number of fatalities (45 fatalities) accounting for 19% of all compensated fatalities. There were also 7 fatalities recorded among Delivery drivers indicating that driving is associated with a high level of fatality with 31 of the Truck driver deaths and 5 of the Delivery driver deaths due to vehicle accidents.

The second highest number of fatalities, 21 deaths, occurred amongst Other miscellaneous labourers and related workers. This group is used where sufficient information has not been provided to more accurately classify the employee's occupation into one of the other labourer categories. Of this group, 8 died from asbestos related diseases, 4 from vehicle accidents and 4 from being hit by a falling object.





Compensated fatality claims over time by occupation

In the analysis of trends, data of the most recent year, 2006–07 are not used for comparison as these preliminary data are likely to change. Table 23 shows that over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, the fatality frequency rate decreased 29% from 2.4 fatalities per 100 million hours worked down to 1.7. Frequency rates have been chosen for this analysis as this measure takes into account differences in hours worked across the occupation categories.

Table 23 also shows that fatality frequency rates decreased in all occupation categories except Tradespersons and related workers which increased 7%. This category accounted for the second highest number of fatalities of all categories. The lowest number of fatalities recorded by this category was in 2000–01 when 49 fatalities were recorded. This rose to a high of 68 in 2002–03 before falling to 55 in 2005–06. This category had the third highest frequency rate, nearly twice the rate for all occupation categories in 2005–06.

Intermediate production and transport workers has consistently recorded the highest fatality frequency rate since 2000–01. In 2005–06, the frequency rate for this category (5.3 fatalities per 100 million hours worked) was over three times the rate for all occupation categories. While this category recorded a 30% decrease in frequency rates over the period from 2000–01 to 2005–06, this decrease is one of the smallest of all occupation categories.

The largest percentage fall on frequency rates (57%) was recorded by the Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers category, though this category has one of the smallest numbers of fatalities accounting for 3% of all fatalities in 2005–06.

Occupation	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
		Ν	lumber of	f fatalities	;	
Managers & administrators	14	14	23	15	10	13
Professionals	28	35	26	12	22	29
Associate professionals	30	16	20	14	19	19
Tradespersons & related workers	49	64	68	61	62	55
Advanced clerical & service workers	2	2	5	2	1	3
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	17	8	6	13	3	8
Intermediate production & transport workers	97	93	77	77	85	73
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	9	8	12	9	5	6
Labourers & related workers	72	65	64	67	48	48
Occupation not stated	2	3	1	1	0	0
Total fatalities	320	308	302	271	255	254
	Frequenc	y rate (fat	alities pe	r 100 mill	ion hours	worked)
Managers & administrators	1.5	1.3	2.2	1.4	0.8	1.0
Professionals	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.7	0.9
Associate professionals	1.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0
Tradespersons & related workers	2.9	3.8	4.0	3.4	3.4	3.1
Advanced clerical & service workers	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.6
Intermediate clerical, sales & service workers	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.3
Intermediate production & transport workers	7.6	7.1	5.8	5.8	6.2	5.3
Elementary clerical, sales & service workers	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.5
Labourers & related workers	6.3	5.9	5.7	6.0	4.2	4.4
All fatalities	2.4	2.3	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7

Table 23 Fatalities: number and frequency rate by occupation by year

** percentage change figures over time are not shown due to the low number of fatalities in this occupation category (a) percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06

Compensated fatalities by nature of injury or disease

The Nature of injury or disease classification is used to categorise the most serious injury or disease sustained by the employee. Figure 18 shows that of the 236 compensated fatalities in 2006–07p, 170 (72%) were caused by an injury and 66 (28%) were the result of a disease caused by work-related exposure to a hazardous substance or other agent.

The most common category was *Multiple injuries* which accounted for 74 fatalities (31% of all compensated fatality claims). This category is used when no principal injury could be identified as the cause of death. The second most common category of injury, with 15 fatalities, was Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis. There were 44 fatalities where the nature of injury was not identified.

There were 25 compensated fatalities in 2006–07p due to Mesothelioma (malignant neoplasm of the pleura) and 8 fatalities due to the related Asbestosis. However, it is known that workers' compensation data does not provide an accurate measure of the incidence of these diseases in the community. More information on these diseases can be found in the report Mesothelioma in Australia, March 2008, available from the ASCC website.

The most common Nature of injury or disease recorded for male employees was *Multiple injuries* which accounted for 67 fatalities followed by *Malignant neoplasms* of the pleura (mesothelioma) which accounted for a further 25 male fatalities. For female employees, 7 of the 21 fatalities were due to Multiple injuries.

While fatalities from disease accounted for 61 (26%) of the 236 compensated fatalities in 2006–07, more than half (35 fatalities) of these involved employees aged 55 years and over. A greater proportion of disease-related fatalities is expected in the older age groups compared with the younger age groups because of the greater length of exposure by older employees to work-related conditions and the long latency period of some work-related diseases.



Figure 18 Fatalities: number by nature of injury or disease, 2006–07p

Compensated fatalities by mechanism of injury or disease

The *Mechanism of injury or disease* classification is used to describe the action, exposure or event that was the direct cause of the injury or disease. Figure 19 shows that over one-third (34%, 81 deaths) of fatalities in 2006–07 were due to *Vehicle accident* with *Long term contact with chemicals or substances* accounting for a further 14% of fatalities (33 deaths). Of the 19 fatalities that involved *Being hit by moving objects*, 6 involved cars and trucks while the remainder were due to a variety of moving machinery and objects. Similarly there was no common item involved in the 18 fatalities that occurred due to *Being hit by falling objects*. There were however, 13 deaths were the mechanism was not identified and a further 13 where multiple mechanisms were the cause. These have been included in the *other and unspecified mechanisms category*.

Figure 19 Fatalities: number by mechanism of injury or disease, 2006–07p



* other and unspecified mechanisms is not a formal *Mechanism of injury or disease* classification. It includes multiple mechanisms, unspecified mechanisms and single incidents resulting in a fatality.

Table 24 shows the mechanisms with highest number of fatalities over the past six years. While the total number of fatalities fell by 21% over this period, consistent improvement across all mechanisms has not occurred. The data for *Vehicle accident* indicates a slight improvement in the number of fatalities from the high of 98 deaths in 2000–01 to 84 in 2005–06, though this is not as low as the 76 deaths recorded in 2001-02 or the 81 recorded in 2003–04. Similar fluctuation in numbers occurred with *Long term contact with chemicals or substances* which started and ended the period with the same number of fatalities (35), but had substantially higher numbers in the intervening years. Of note is that while Figure 19 shows that *Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment* recorded 10 fatalities in 2006–07, the sixth highest cause of fatalities in that year, Table 24 shows that this mechanism does not usually account for so many fatalities in one year and hence data from a single year should not be taken to represent the pattern for all years.

Mechanism	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06
Vehicle accident	98	76	93	81	89	84
Long term contact with chemicals or substances	35	48	56	54	51	35
Being hit by moving objects	21	23	18	22	13	22
Being hit by falling objects	15	20	13	6	18	18
Falls from a height	16	20	16	24	9	17
Contact with electricity	9	4	11	6	9	13
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	4	8	8	5	3	2

Table 24 Fatalities: number of fatalities by selected mechanism of injury or disease by year

Compensated fatalities by breakdown agency

Breakdown agency refers to the object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong, and which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. Figure 20 shows the most common breakdown agency for compensated fatality claims in 2006–07p was *Mobile plant and transport*. The 96 fatalities attributed to this agency accounted for more than a third (41%) of all compensated fatality claims. Of these 96 fatalities, 75 involved *Road transport*: mostly comprising *Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities* (37 fatalities) and *Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries* (37 fatalities).

Of the 48 fatalities involving *Materials and substances*, 33 involved asbestos. The third highest number of fatalities (24) involved *Machinery and (mainly) fixed plant.* Within this group *Conveyors and lifting plant* accounted for 12 fatalities and *Electrical installation* 6 fatalities.

Figure 20 Fatalities: number by breakdown agency of injury or disease, 2006–07p



Part D

Priority industry profiles

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

An overview

During 2006–07, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry employed 357 000 people, 4% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 53% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers). Caution should be exercised in using these data to represent workers in this industry who are not employees.

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 4625 workers' compensation claims for serious injury or disease in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, representing 4% of all serious claims. This equates to 13 claims per day or 25 claims per 1000 employees, involving one or more weeks off work. The Construction industry recorded the third highest incidence rate of all industries in 2006–07, 78% higher than the incidence rate for all industries (14 claims per 1000 employees).

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry comprises a number of groups with the Horticulture and fruit growing and Grain, sheep and beef cattle farming groups together accounting for 63% of workers in this industry. Figure 21 shows that the Horticulture and fruit growing group had a considerably smaller proportion of serious claims than the proportion of workers in the group while the Services to agriculture; hunting and trapping and Other livestock farming groups recorded much larger percentages of serious claims than the proportion of employees in the group.

Figure 21 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by industry groups, 2006–07p



Table 25 shows that the lowest incidence rates in 2006–07p were recorded in the Dairy cattle farming and Horticulture & fruit growing groups (both with 19 claims per 1000 employees) closely followed by Poultry farming (20). In contrast, the highest incidence rates were recorded by Marine fishing (46 claims per 1000 employees) and Other livestock farming (45 claims per 1000 employees), which mainly involved the farming of pigs. These groups, however, only accounted for 4% and 1% of employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry respectively. The third highest incidence rate (43 claims per 1000 employees) was recorded by Services to agriculture; hunting and trapping of which 43% of the claims were from employees engaged in Shearing services and the rest from employees engaged in a variety of services to assist the Agriculture sector such as fruit picking and crop harvesting.

Gender and age

In 2006–07, 29% of employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry were female, but female employees lodged only 20% of the serious claims. This equates to an incidence rate of 17 claims per 1000 female employees compared to 29 claims per 1000 male employees.

Figure 22 shows that male employees had considerably higher incidence rates than female employees in all age groups apart from the 15–24 years age group, in which female employees recorded 36 claims per 1000 employees compared with 32 claims per 1000 employees for male employees. Analysis of the claims for these younger workers reveals that females had much higher injury rates due to falls and being hit associated with animals.

Figure 22 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p



** An incidence rate for women aged 65 years and over is not shown as the estimated number of employees in this cohort is unreliable.

Common causes of serious claims

Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down was the most common cause of claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry in 2006–07p, accounting for 13% of claims. Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* and *Falls from a height* (both with 11% of claims); and *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* (10%). *Being hit by an animal* was the cause of a further 9% of claims — most notably in Dairy cattle farming and Other livestock farming, with both groups having one-quarter of their claims in this category.

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006-07p, the majority of compensated claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry were injury-related (83%) with the remainder being disease-related (17%). Of the injury-related claims, *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* was the most common type of injury, accounting for 44% of injuries. Other common causes of injury claims were *Fractures* (19% of injury claims), and *Open wounds not involving traumatic amputation* (15% of injury claims).

The most common disease-related claims in the industry were related to *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (30% of disease claims). A further 25% of disease claims involved *Dorsopathies - disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs.*

Common breakdown agencies

In 2006-07p, *Live four-legged animal* was the most common breakdown agency in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, making up 18% of all claims. This breakdown agency accounted for 43% of claims in the Other livestock farming group and 32% of claims in the Grain, sheep and beef cattle farming group. *Outdoor environment*, which includes such items as buildings and other structures; fencing; vegetation; weather and water; and holes in the ground accounted for a further 15% of claims and *Road transport*, 8% of claims.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Since the 2006–07p data are preliminary, the time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls.

Table 25 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the incidence rate for the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry fell from 29 claims per 1000 employees to 26 claims per 1000 employees — an 11% decrease, slightly less than the fall in the incidence rate across all industries (16%).

Between 2000–01 and 2005–06, Poultry farming recorded the largest percentage decrease in incidence rates, falling 50% from 36 claims per 1000 employees to 18, to record a rate lower than the average for the whole industry. Poultry farming accounts for around 5% of employees in this industry. The next largest percentage fall (49%) was recorded by Other livestock farming which fell from 67 claims per 1000 to 34 in 2005–06. This rate, however, was higher than the rate for the whole industry (26) and the preliminary data for 2006–07 indicates an increase in the rate for this group.

The largest percentage increase in incidence rates was recorded by Services to agriculture, hunting and trapping which increased 15% from 36 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 41 in 2005–06. As the actual number of claims lodged by this group remained fairly stable over this time period, the increase in incidence rates is driven by a fall in the number of employees in this group.

Incidence rates for groups containing relatively low numbers of claims should be interpreted with caution as random annual fluctuations in claim numbers can lead to notable shifts in incidence rates, posing difficulties in comparing rates over time. Estimates of employee numbers in smaller groups can also fluctuate between years also impacting on incidence rates.

Table 25	Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: number and incidence rate by industry
	sub-division and group, by year

Industry sub-division and group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	%chg ^(a)
			Nun	ber of cla	aims			
Agriculture	4360	4300	4075	3745	3600	3440	3 455	-21%
Horticulture & fruit growing	1 445	1 380	1 420	1 360	1 285	1 190	1 140	-18%
Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming	1 840	1 820	1 595	1 545	1 435	1 355	1 420	-26%
Dairy cattle farming	245	250	260	205	190	220	205	-10%
Poultry farming	245	275	230	200	215	160	185	-35%
Other livestock farming	320	320	330	285	280	325	315	2%
Other crop growing	260	255	235	155	200	200	190	-23%
Services to agriculture, hunting & trapping	695	670	670	655	700	690	635	-1%
Forestry & logging	435	430	400	375	345	360	305	-17%
Commercial fishing	395	370	420	380	295	215	230	-46%
Marine fishing	170	175	200	165	135	90	110	-47%
Aquaculture	225	195	220	215	160	125	120	-44%
Total Agriculture, forestry & fishing	5880	5765	5565	5150	4940	4705	4 625	-20%
		Inciden	ce rate (c	laims per	1000 em	oloyees)		
Agriculture	27.0	24.0	27.1	24.6	24.0	23.5	22.9	-13%
Horticulture & fruit growing	22.0	20.1	22.5	19.1	19.4	18.9	19.0	-14%
Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming	27.0	23.3	28.3	28.2	30.4	28.3	25.5	5%
Dairy cattle farming	26.0	19.7	27.1	30.5	16.6	17.6	18.7	-32%
Poultry farming	35.8	35.7	24.5	23.3	21.4	18.0	19.8	-50%
Other livestock farming	66.8	65.3	53.5	51.1	42.1	33.8	44.6	-49%
Other crop growing	40.9	33.9	43.4	29.1	23.4	40.7	24.3	0%
Services to agriculture, hunting & trapping	36.0	41.9	46.7	42.0	42.9	41.4	42.5	15%
Forestry & logging	35.9	38.3	45.3	32.1	30.3	33.2	28.3	-8%
Commercial fishing	41.1	36.2	42.2	40.9	32.2	29.5	39.8	-28%
Marine fishing	27.2	29.2	36.9	37.9	34.9	22.8	45.6	-16%
Aquaculture	67.3	46.3	48.3	43.6	30.2	37.6	35.5	-44%
Aariculture, forestry & fishing	29.1	26.6	30.4	27.3	26.5	25.9	25.3	-11%

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06 due to the data for 2006-07 being preliminary. and subject to change

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the median time lost from work increased slightly from 4.5 working weeks to 4.6, with a high of 4.8 weeks in 2002–03. By contrast, the median time lost from work for all claims remained stable at 3.8 weeks for all claims (Figure 23).

While time lost from work recorded little change over the six years, the median payment increased 21%, from \$4200 in 2000–01 to \$5100 in 2005–06. This is a larger increase than the amount recorded for all claims which recorded a 15% increase (from \$5300 to \$6100) (Figure 24). Factors influencing the payments made include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical expenses.

Notably, even though the median time lost figure for employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry was 21% higher than the corresponding figure for all industries in 2005–06, the median payment in this industry was 16% lower than the median payment for all industries. This is partially explained by the lower average salaries for employees in this industry compared with all industries, equating to lower claim payments.



Figure 23 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: median time lost from work by year

Figure 24 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: median payments by year



Fatalities

The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry accounted for 14% of all compensated fatalities in 2006–07. Table 26 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the total number of fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry fell from 29 to 24, however, there was a spike of 31 fatalities in 2004–05. The preliminary result for 2006–07 of 14 fatalities suggests an improvement for that year.

The incidence rate of compensated fatalities in this industry fluctuated between a low of 12 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2001–02 to a high of 17 fatalities in 2003–04: with an average of 14 fatalities across all years (Table 26). The fatality incidence rate for 2005–06 (13 claims per 100 000 employees) was five times higher than the corresponding rate for all industries (2.8 claims per 100 000 employees).

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the three years, 2004–05 to 2006–07, were aggregated for the following analysis. Over the three years, there were 69 fatalities in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, with 35 (51%) occurring in the Agriculture sub-division, including 21 employees involved with Grain, sheep and beef cattle farming.

Industry sub-division and group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06 2	2006–07p			
	Number of fatalities									
Agriculture	17	13	19	18	11	12	12			
Horticulture & fruit growing	4	3	2	6	2	1	2			
Grain, sheep & beef cattle farming	10	6	10	7	7	8	6			
Dairy cattle farming	0	1	1	2	1	0	2			
Poultry farming	1	1	1	0	0	0	0			
Other livestock farming	1	2	1	1	0	2	0			
Other crop growing	1	0	4	2	1	1	2			
Services to agriculture, hunting & trapping	3	5	3	8	10	5	2			
Forestry & logging	7	4	3	1	9	5	0			
Commercial fishing	2	5	2	1	1	2	0			
Marine fishing	2	5	2	0	1	2	0			
Aquaculture	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			
Total Agriculture, forestry & fishing	29	27	27	28	31	24	14			
	Incide	nce rate (fatalities	per 100 0	00 employ	/ees)				
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	14.3	12.4	14.7	14.8	16.6	13.2	7.7			

Table 26 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: number of compensated fatalities by industry sub-division and group and year

A further 17 (25%) deaths occurred amongst employees in the Services to agriculture; hunting and trapping sub-division including 10 from employees engaged in general services to the industry such as fruit picking and crop harvesting.

Vehicle accident accounted for 25 deaths (36% of fatalities) in this industry between 2004–05 and 2006–07p. Other common causes were *Being hit by falling objects* (12 deaths, 17% of fatalities) and *Being hit by moving objects* (4 deaths, 6%).

Between 2004–05 and 2006–07p, injuries accounted for 88% of fatalities, almost half (48%) of which involved *Multiple injuries*. Of the 8 disease related fatalities, 4 involved *Ischaemic heart disease*.

Figure 25 shows that fatality incidence rates by age showed no discernible pattern with employees in the 45-54 age group recording the lowest fatality rate (9 fatalities per 100 000 employees) and those age 55 years and over, the highest (17 fatalities per 100 000 employees).

The 35-44 years age group recorded the highest proportion of all fatalities, 28%, and the 45-54 years age group recorded the lowest proportion, 14%.

Figure 25 Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry: fatality incidence rate by age, years 2004–05 to 2006–07p combined



Construction

An overview

The Construction industry employed 936 000 people in Australia in 2006–07, 9% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 71% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers). Caution should be exercised in using these data to represent workers in this industry who are not employees.

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 14 130 serious workers' compensation claims in the Construction industry, accounting for 10% of all serious claims. This equates to 39 claims per day or 22 claims per 1000 employees, involving one or more weeks off work. The Construction industry recorded the fourth highest incidence rate of all industries in 2006–07p.

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

Within the Construction industry, the Building construction and Installation trade services groups employed the largest proportions of workers (28% and 25% respectively), however, these groups accounted for a lower proportion of serious claims than expected based on the proportion of employees (20% and 21% of serious claims respectively).

On the other hand, Figure 26 shows that Non-building construction and Building structure services accounted for higher proportions of serious claims than expected based on their proportion of employees. Consequently, these groups had the highest incidence rates of serious claims (38 and 30 claims per 1000 workers respectively) of all groups (see Table 27), while Installation trade services had one of the lowest incidence rates (19 claims per 1000 workers) despite having the largest number of claims.

Figure 26 Construction industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by groups, 2006–07p



Gender and age

In 2006–07, 12% of employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry were female, however, female employees lodged only 2% of the serious claims. This resulted in female employees recording a much lower incidence rate than male employees (4 claims per 1000 female employees compared with 25 claims per 1000 male employees).

Figure 27 shows that incidence rates for female employees were consistently much lower than those for male employees at all ages ranging between 3 and 5 claims per 1000 female employees. For male employees, incidence rates increased gradually with age — from 20 claims per 1000 employees for those in the 15–24 years age group to 34 claims per 1000 employees for those in the 55–64 age group, before declining slightly for the 65 years and over age group. This difference between male and female incidence rates in part reflects the different types of work undertaken by men and women in the industry.



Figure 27 Construction industry: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p

** An incidence rate for women aged 65 years and over is not shown as the estimated number of employees in this cohort is unreliable.

Common causes of serious claims

Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects was the most common cause of claims in the Construction industry in 2006–07p, accounting for 17% of claims. Other common causes were *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* (12%); *Falls on the same level* (12% of claims); and *Falls from a height* (12%).

These proportions were broadly similar across each of the groups within the Construction industry, except for the Site preparation group, which recorded a higher proportion of *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* (16%) and a lower proportion of claims involving *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* (10%) compared to the whole industry. Non-building construction also had a lower proportion of claims due to *Falls from a height* (6%) and a greater proportion due to *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* (16%); and Building completion services recorded a higher proportion of *Falls from a height* (17%).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006–07p, three-quarters of serious claims (77%) in the Construction industry were injury-related with the remainder being disease-related (23%). Half of all injury-related claims involved *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles,* and 17% involved *Open wound not involving traumatic amputation.* A further 15% of injury claims involved *Fractures.*

The most common disease leading to a claim was *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* accounting for 26% of disease claims. This was followed by *Dorsopathies—disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs* (24% of disease claims) and *Deafness* (21% of disease claims).

Common breakdown agencies

The breakdown agency most commonly associated with claims in the Construction industry in 2006–07p was *Other material and objects* (mainly metal materials or objects and sawn or dressed timber), accounting for 15% of claims. Other common agencies were *Outdoor environment* (13% of claims) and *Ladders, mobile ramps and stairways, and scaffolding* (8%).

These proportions were broadly consistent across the groups within the Construction industry with the exception of Building completion services where *Ladders, mobile ramps and stairways, and scaffolding* accounted for nearly twice the proportion of claims (15% of claims in this group) compared to the industry average of 8%. Site preparation services also recorded higher proportions of claims due to *Road transport* (12% in this group compared to 4% for the industry as a whole) and *Self-propelled plant* (11% in this group compared to 2% for the industry as a whole), and a lower proportion due to *Ladders, mobile ramps and stairways, and scaffolding* (3%).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

Since the 2006–07p data are preliminary, time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls. Table 27 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the incidence rate in the Construction industry decreased 20% from 31 claims per 1000 employees to 25. This is greater than the decrease in the incidence rate for all industries (16%).

Within the Construction industry, all groups recorded decreases over the six years except for Non-building construction which increased 6%. This group includes the construction of roads, bridges dams, pipelines and oil refineries. Incidence rates in this sector were more than double the rates for the whole of the Construction industry in 2005–06 (55 claims per 1000 employees compared to 25 for the industry).

Industry sub-division and group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	%chg ^(a)
			Num	ber of clai	ms			
General construction	5 535	5 055	4 805	5 415	5 645	5 415	5 185	-2%
Building construction	2 775	2 390	2 500	2 800	3 010	2 810	2 820	1%
Non-building construction	2 760	2 665	2 310	2 615	2 630	2 605	2 365	-6%
Construction trade services	8 095	7 340	8 055	8 675	8 710	8 775	8 935	8%
Site preparation services	930	750	835	880	955	960	970	3%
Building structure services	1 625	1 505	1 650	1 875	1 775	1 675	1 730	3%
Installation trade services	2 765	2 480	2 665	2 810	2 885	2 965	3 025	7%
Building completion	1 940	1 735	1 765	1 930	1 825	1 930	1 935	-1%
Other construction services	835	870	1 145	1 175	1 275	1 245	1 275	49%
Total Construction	13 630	12 395	12 865	14 090	14 355	14 195	14 120	4%
		Inciden	ce rate (cla	aims per 1	000 empl	oyees)		
General construction	29.6	26.1	27.2	28.2	28.3	24.6	21.6	-17%
Building construction	20.8	16.5	18.9	19	19.8	16.2	16.0	-22%
Non-building construction	51.7	54.8	51.6	58.7	55.1	54.8	37.6	6%
Construction trade services	32.8	30.5	29.7	28.1	25.3	25.3	22.4	-23%
Site preparation services	41.0	34.5	34.2	35.2	27.3	29.1	22.9	-29%
Building structure services	45.2	41.2	44.2	37.0	31.0	30.9	30.0	-32%
Installation trade services	28.9	26.5	24.0	24.2	22.9	21.8	18.9	-25%
Building completion services	31.1	28.3	28.6	25.5	21.7	26.7	24.2	-14%
Other construction services	27.6	31.6	31.1	28.5	30.4	24.5	22.0	-11%
Construction	31.4	28.6	28.7	28.2	26.4	25.0	22.1	-20%

Table 27Construction industry: number and incidence rate by industry sub-division and
group, by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06 due to the data for 2006-07 being preliminary and subject to change

The Building structure services group which includes bricklaying, concreting and structural steel erection, recorded the largest percentage decrease in incidence rates, decreasing 32% from 45 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 31 in 2005–06.

Incidence rates for groups containing relatively low numbers of claims should be interpreted with caution as random annual fluctuations in claim numbers can lead to notable shifts in incidence rates, posing difficulties in comparing rates over time. Estimates of employee numbers in smaller groups can also fluctuate between years also impacting on incidence rates.

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Figures 28 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the median time lost from work decreased slightly from 4.2 working weeks to 4.0 for claims in the Construction industry. This is higher than the rate for all claims which remained stable at 3.8 weeks. Over the same period, the median payment increased 7% (from \$6800 to \$7300) for the Construction industry and by 15% (\$5300 to \$6100) for all claims (Figure 29).

Factors influencing the payments made include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work, and medical expenses. The higher median payment in the Construction industry compared with all industries can be explained in part by higher salaries in this industry in addition to the slightly higher median time lost figures.



Figure 28 Construction industry: median time lost from work by year



Fatalities

Table 28 shows that between 2000-01 and 2005-06, the number of fatalities fell from 48 to 38, however the preliminary results for 2006–07 has 50 fatalities so far for the Construction industry. While the Construction industry accounts for 7% of Australian employees, it accounted for 15% of all compensated fatalities in 2005–06 and 21% of the preliminary number of fatalities recorded in 2006–07.

The Construction industry recorded a fatality incidence rate of 6.7 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2005–06, considerably lower than all previous years. Nevertheless, this rate was double the fatality incidence rate for all claims (2.8).

Industry sub-division & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p		
	Number of fatalities								
General construction	20	16	10	19	17	12	20		
Building construction	8	9	1	8	9	4	10		
Non-building construction	12	6	9	9	8	8	10		
Construction trade services	28	32	38	32	28	26	30		
Site preparation services	5	7	3	5	3	3	1		
Building structure services	6	6	6	5	1	2	4		
Installation trade services	10	6	11	6	10	12	16		
Building completion services	6	9	17	12	13	5	6		
Other construction services	1	4	1	4	1	4	3		
Total Construction	48	48	48	51	45	38	50		
	Incidence rate (fatalities per 100 000 employees)								
Construction	11.1	11.1	10.7	10.2	8.3	6.7	7.8		

Table 28 Construction industry: number of compensated fatalities by industry sub-division and group, by year

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the three-years, 2004–05 to 2006–07p, are aggregated in the following analysis. There were 133 compensated fatalities in the industry over this period.

Construction trade services sub-division accounted for 84 of the fatalities during this period — 38 of these within Installation trade services. The remaining 49 fatalities occurred in the General construction sub-division — 26 of these within Non–building construction (which includes the construction of roads, bridges, dams and pipelines), and 23 in Building construction.

Long term contact with chemicals or substances was the most common cause of fatalities in the Construction industry between 2004–05 and 2006–07p, accounting for 55 fatalities. Other common causes were *Vehicle Accident (*27 fatalities), *Contact with electricity* (13 fatalities), *Falls from a height* (11 fatalities), and *Being hit by falling objects* (10 fatalities).

Between 2004–05 and 2006–07p, 52% of fatalities in the Construction industry were injury-related and 48% were disease-related. The most common causes of injury-related fatalities were *Multiple injuries* (22 fatalities), *Effects of weather, exposure, air pressure and other external causes* (15 fatalities) and *Intracranial injury, including concussion* (9 fatalities). The most common disease-related fatalities involved *Mesothelioma* (40 fatalities) and *Asbestosis* (13 fatalities).

Figure 30 shows that fatality incidence rates generally increased with age. The much higher fatality incidence rate recorded for employees aged 55 years and over is mostly attributable to cases of *Mesothelioma* and *Asbestosis*, with these diseases responsible for 38 of the 54 fatalities in this age group. It is important to note that

Mesothelioma and *Asbestosis* have a long latency period, typically resulting in death 20 to 30 years after the initial exposure. Therefore the date of claim lodgement upon which 'age' is assigned in these data do not correspond to the age at which the exposure occurred. For other fatalities, particularly for injuries, the date of claim lodgement much better reflects the age at which the incident causing death occurred.



Figure 30 Construction industry: fatality incidence rate by age, years 2004–05 to 2006–07p combined

Tatalities per 100 000 employee

Health and community services

An overview

The Health and community services industry employed 1 078 000 people in 2006–07, 11% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 95% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers).

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 16 030 serious claims in the Health and community services industry, 12% of the claims across all industries. This equates to 44 claims per day or 15 claims per 1000 employees, involving one or more weeks off work. The Health and community services industry recorded the eighth highest incidence rate of all industries but only slightly above the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees.

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

Within the Health and community services industry, the Hospitals and nursing homes group accounted for 48% of employees and 57% of serious workers' compensation claims. Figure 31 similarly shows that the Community care services group also accounted for a greater proportion of claims than expected from its proportion of employees (17% of employees and 25% of claims).

In contrast, the Medical and dental services group had the third largest proportion of employees (13%), but the second lowest proportion of serious claims resulting in the lowest incidence rate of serious claims (2.3 claims per 1000 workers) in the Health and community services industry. Table 29 shows that the highest rate of serious claims (22 claims per 1000 workers) was recorded by the Community care services group.

Figure 31 Health and community services industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by groups, 2006–07p



Gender and age

The Health and community services industry had the highest rate of female employment of all industries in 2006–07p with female employees accounting for 80% of all employees in this industry. As female employees lodged 80% of claims this resulted in similar incidence rates of serious claims for males and females: 15 claims per 1000 employees.

Figure 32 Health and community services industry: Incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p



Figure 32 shows that male and female employees recorded similar incidence rates across the age groups with female employees recording higher rates than male employees in the 15–24 years and 65 years and over age groups. The highest incidence rates were recorded by the 35–44 and 45–54 years age groups.

Common causes of serious claims

Body stressing was the most common cause of claims in the Health and community services industry in 2006–07p, accounting for over half (52%) of all claims in the industry. A more detailed analysis of this mechanism shows that one-quarter of all claims were caused by *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* and 18% were caused by *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects.* Another notable cause for claims was *Falls on the same level,* accounting for 14% of claims.

These causes represented similar proportions across most groups within this industry in 2006–07p. However, the Veterinary services group (understandably) had more claims caused by *Being bitten by an animal* (28% of claims) and *Being hit by an animal* (10%) compared to very few of these claims recorded by the other groups, and less claims caused by *Body stressing* (28% of claims).

The Medical and dental services group recorded twice the proportion of Mental stress claims (16% compared to 8% for the whole industry), which was offset by a lower proportion of *Body stressing* (40%).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006–07p, two-thirds (68%) of claims in Health and community services were injury-related, and the remaining one-third (32%) were disease-related. The most common injury leading to a claim was *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* (69% of injury claims and 47% of all claims in the industry). The most common type of disease-related claim involved *Dorsopathies – disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs* (29% of disease claims) followed by *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (28% of disease claims) and Mental disorders (26% of disease claims).

These proportions were similar for most industry groups within the Health and community services industry in 2006–07p. The Veterinary services group was again an exception: this group had a higher proportion of *Open wound not involving amputation* (37% of injury claims compared to 4% for the industry) and a lower proportion of *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* (37% of injury claims). This group also had a lower proportion of *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (12% of disease claims) but a higher proportion of *Other diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue* (12% compared to 1% for the industry).

Common breakdown agencies

The breakdown agency most commonly associated with claims in this industry in 2006–07p was *Human agencies*, accounting for 34% of claims. The human agency in these cases was predominantly the person being cared for with 57% of these claims lodged by employees engaged in Hospital and nursing homes and a further 27% lodged by employees in Community care services. Common causes of these injuries were the result of lifting or moving objects (patients). Other common agencies were *Furniture and fittings* (9% of claims) and *Indoor environment* (9%).

The distribution of these breakdown agencies was similar in most groups of Health and community services in 2006–07p. However, the Veterinary services group had a different pattern dominated by the agency *Live four-legged animals* (53% of claims), Child care services had a higher proportion of claims in *Outdoor environment* (10%) and the Other health services group had a higher proportion of claims with *Road transport* (6%) compared with all industries (2%), reflecting the presence of Ambulance services in this group.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

As the 2006–07p data are preliminary, time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls. Table 29 shows that the incidence rate of serious claims in the Health and community services industry fell 14% from 19 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 15 in 2005–06. This is slightly less than the fall in the rate for all industries (16%).

Medical and dental services recorded the greatest percentage improvement in incidence rates (34%) over the six years. This group accounted for 13% of employees. Other health services recorded the next highest percentage improvement (23%) over the six years though the rates have fluctuated from 14 serious claims per 1000 employees to 22.

Industry sub-division & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	%chg ^(a)		
Number of claims										
Health services	12 270	12 035	12 210	12 875	13 140	11 675	11 140	-5%		
Hospitals & nursing homes	10 060	9 845	9 955	10 300	10 520	9 665	9 135	-4%		
Medical & dental services	435	380	370	405	375	325	330	-25%		
Other health services	1 680	1 725	1 800	2 085	2 135	1 570	1 560	-7%		
Veterinary services	90	90	85	90	115	120	110	33%		
Community services	3 905	4 185	4 130	4 405	4 495	4 800	4 890	23%		
Child care services	595	590	595	760	745	840	895	41%		
Community care services	3 310	3 595	3 540	3 645	3 750	3 960	3 990	20%		
Total Health & community services	16 175	16 225	16 340	17 280	17 635	16 475	16 030	2%		
Incidence ra	ite (claims	s per 1000	employe	es)						
Health services	18.7	18.4	17.8	18.3	18.2	15.4	14.2	-18%		
Hospitals and nursing homes	23.0	23.1	22.1	21.9	22.6	19.9	18.1	-13%		
Medical and dental services	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.3	2.3	-43%		
Other health services	17.5	16.8	17.6	22.2	19.4	13.5	13.0	-23%		
Veterinary services	6.9	8.7	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.5	13%		
Community services	19.7	18.6	18.5	19.4	18.8	18.7	17.8	-5%		
Child care services	10.1	10.1	9.3	11.0	9.6	9.9	9.6	-2%		
Community care services	23.8	21.6	22.2	23.1	23.1	23.1	21.9	-3%		
Health & community services	18.9	18.4	17.9	18.6	18.4	16.2	15.2	-14%		

Table 29 Health and community services industry: number by industry sub-division and group, by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06 due to the data for 2006-07 being preliminary and subject to change

Incidence rates for groups containing relatively low numbers of claims should be interpreted with caution as random annual fluctuations in claim numbers can lead to notable shifts in incidence rates, posing difficulties in comparing rates over time. Estimates of employee numbers in smaller groups can also fluctuate between years also impacting on incidence rates.

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Figure 33 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the median time lost from work increased slightly from 4.0 weeks to 4.2 weeks for claims in the Health and community services industry, but remained stable at 3.8 weeks for all claims.

Over the same period, the median payment increased 11% from \$4700 to \$5200 for claims in the Health and community services industry, below the 15% increase recorded for all claims (Figure 34).

Factors influencing the payments made include employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical expenses. Despite the longer periods off work for claims in the Health and community services industry, the costs of claims were lower, possibly due to lower average salaries of workers in this industry.

Figure 33 Health and community services industry: median time lost from work by year



Figure 34 Health and community services industry: median payment by year



Fatalities

Table 30 shows that, except for the large spike in fatalities (18) in 2001–02, the number of fatalities in the Health and community services industry has steadily declined from 8 fatalities in 2000-01 to 4 fatalities in 2005-06. The preliminary data for 2006–07 has 5 fatalities.

With the exception of the sharp increase in the incidence rate in 2001–02 (2.1 fatalities per 100 000 employees), the fatality incidence rate in this industry has fallen from 0.9 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2000–01 to 0.4 in 2005–06, to record an incidence rate considerably smaller than the rate for all industries (0.4 fatalities per 100 000 employees compared with 2.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees for all industries).

Table 30	Health and community services industry: number and incidence rate of fatalities by
	industry sub-division and group, by year

Industry sub-division & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	
	Number of fatalities							
Health services	6	15	2	4	4	4	5	
Hospitals & nursing homes	1	9	2	0	2	1	1	
Medical & dental services	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	
Other health services	5	3	0	4	2	2	1	
Veterinary services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Community services	2	3	6	2	1	0	0	
Child care services	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Community care services	2	3	5	2	1	0	0	
Total Health & community services	8	18	8	6	5	4	5	
	Incidence rate (fatalities per 100 000 employees)							
Health & community services	0.9	2.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the five-year period, 2002–03 to 2006–07 are aggregated for the following analysis. During this period, there were 28 compensated fatalities in the Health and community services industry. These fatalities occurred predominantly in three industry groups — Other health services, Community care services and Hospitals and nursing homes, with 9, 8 and 6 fatalities respectively. The Other health services group includes Ambulance services as well as Community health centres.

During the period 2002–03 to 2006–07p, *Vehicle accident* was the most common cause of fatality in the Health and community services industry, accounting for 29% of fatalities (8 of the 28 fatalities). A further 3 fatalities involved heart attacks caused by *Work pressure*, and 3 were caused by *Being hit by moving objects*.

There was no main type of injury or disease resulting in the fatalities in the Health and community services industry between 2002–03 and 2006–07p. The largest groups, accounting for 5 fatalities each, were *Multiple injuries* and *Ischaemic heart disease*.

Figure 35 shows that the 55 years and over age group recorded the highest incidence rate of all age groups (0.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees). Except for the 25–34 years age group, incidence rates increased with age. In numerical terms, the 45–54 year old group had the highest number of fatalities in the five-year period (9) though all age groups other than the 15–24 years group recorded at least 5 fatalities.

Figure 35 Health and community services industry: fatality incidence rate by age, years 2002–03 to 2006–07p combined



Fatalities per 100 000 employees

Manufacturing

An overview

The Manufacturing industry employed 1 064 000 people in 2006–07, 11% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 94% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers).

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 26 695 serious workers' compensation claims in the Manufacturing industry, representing one-fifth of claims across all industries. This equates to 73 claims per day or 28 claims per 1000 employees involving one or more weeks off work. The incidence rate of 28 claims per 1000 employees, meant the Manufacturing industry had the highest incidence rate of all industries in 2006–07p, twice the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees.

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

Within the Manufacturing industry, the Machinery and equipment group accounted for the largest proportion of employees (23%) and the second largest proportion of serious claims (20%). Figure 36 shows that the largest proportion of serious claims (27%) was lodged by the Food, beverage and tobacco group. As this group only accounted for 20% of employees, it recorded the highest incidence rate of serious claims (37 claims per 1000 employees: see Table 31). In contrast the Printing, publishing and recorded media group accounted for 11% of employees but only 4% of claims and therefore recorded the smallest incidence rate (9 claims per 1000 employees).

Figure 36 Manufacturing industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by groups, 2006–07p



Gender and age

While 25% of the employees in the Manufacturing industry in 2006–07 were female, they accounted for only 15% of claims in this industry. This resulted in female employees recording an incidence rate half that of men (16 claims per 1000 female employees compared with 32 claims per 1000 male employees).

Figure 37 Manufacturing industry: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p



 $^{^{\}star\star}$ An incidence rate for women aged 65 years and over is not shown as the estimated number of employees in this cohort is unreliable.

Figure 37 shows that in 2006–07p, incidence rates were similar for all age groups for female employees (around 14 claims per 1000 female employees) except those in the 45–54 years age group for which the rate was 22 claims per 1000 female employees. For male employees, incidence rates also varied little with age, averaging 32 claims per 1000 male employees, except for the 65 years and over age group which recorded the much lower rate of 23 claims per 1000 male employees.

Common causes of serious claims

Body stressing was the most common cause of claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2006–07p, accounting for 43% of all claims, including 20% of claims in *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects* and 15% in *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down.* Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* (9%); *Being hit by moving objects* (7%); and *Long term exposure to sounds* (5%). These proportions were broadly consistent across the sub-divisions within the Manufacturing industry.

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006–07, 71% of claims in the Manufacturing industry were injury-related, and the remaining 29% were disease-related. The most common type of injury leading to a claim was *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* (50% of injury claims and 35% of all claims), and *Open wound not involving traumatic amputation* (17% of injury claims). The most common type of disease leading to a claim was *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (28% of disease claims and 8% of all claims) followed by *Dorsopathies – disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs* (23% of disease claims). These proportions were broadly consistent across the industry sub-divisions.

Common breakdown agencies

The breakdown agency most commonly associated with claims in the Manufacturing industry in 2006–07p was *Other materials and objects*, representing 18% of claims. A large proportion of these claims (44%) involved the sub-agency *Ferrous and non-ferrous metal* (mainly in the sub-divisions Metal product manufacturing and Machinery and equipment manufacturing) and a further 13% involved the sub-agency *Sawn or dressed timber* (mainly in the sub-division Wood and paper product manufacturing). Other common agencies were *Fastening, packing and packaging equipment* (10% of claims) and *Indoor environment* (7%).

These were however some differences to these proportions for the sub-divisions within the Manufacturing industry. The Food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing sub-division recorded higher proportions of injuries involving *Hand-tools, non-powered, edged* (mainly knives and cutlery) (9% of claims compared with 4% for all groups), *Non-living animals* (9% of claims compared with 2% for all groups) and

Fastening, packing and packaging equipment (16% of claims), offset by a lower proportion in Other materials and objects (6% of claims).

In the Printing, publishing and recording media sub-division there was more involvement of Crushing, pressing, rolling machinery (12% of claims compared with 2% for all groups) and Fastening, packing and packaging equipment (17% of claims). In the Metal product manufacturing sub-division there was a higher concentration of Other materials and objects (29% of claims) offset by a lower proportion in *Fastening, packing and packaging equipment* (5% of claims).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

As the 2006–07p data are preliminary, these time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls. Table 31 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the incidence rate decreased 5% from 30 claims per 1000 employees to 29. This is much smaller than the decrease in the incidence rate for all industries (16%). The incidence rate for the Manufacturing industry in 2005–06 was nearly double the rate for all industries (29 compared to 15 claims per 1000 employees for all industries).

Between 2000–01 and 2005–06, five of the industry sub-divisions within the Manufacturing industry experienced a decrease in incidence rates and four increased. The most notable decrease (20%) was in the Food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing sub-division (from 49 claims per 1000 employees to 39. The Other manufacturing sub-division (which manufactures goods such as prefabricated building materials, furniture, jewellery, toys and sporting goods) recorded the largest percentage increase (38%): from 23 to 31 claims per 1000 employees over the same period.

Industry sub-division	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	%chg ^(a)		
Number of claims										
Food, beverage & tobacco	8 735	8 095	7 880	7 100	7 245	7 215	7 240	-17%		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather	1 415	1 380	1 080	1 005	925	785	690	-45%		
Wood & paper product	2 310	2 225	2 510	2 430	2 405	2 415	2 240	5%		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	1 255	1 220	1 180	1 180	1 175	1 145	975	-9%		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product	2 430	2 285	2 145	2 065	2 060	1 990	1 990	-18%		
Non-metallic mineral product	1 415	1 380	1 410	1 365	1 310	1 275	1 200	-10%		
Metal product	5 805	5 535	5 410	5 490	5 445	5 580	5 220	-4%		
Machinery & equipment	6 430	5 875	5 730	5 730	5 875	5 625	5 390	-13%		
Other manufacturing	1 615	1 680	1 935	2 065	2 125	1 745	1 755	8%		
Total Manufacturing	31 405	29 675	29 280	28 435	28 565	27 770	26 695	-12%		
	Inc	idence rat	e (claims	per 1000 e	employees	;)				
Food, beverage & tobacco	49.0	45.6	43.7	41.9	35.7	39.2	37.3	-20%		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather	19.7	22.3	17.9	18.4	18.7	17.2	16.3	-13%		
Wood & paper product	35.4	35.2	37.3	33.1	35.2	36.5	33.6	3%		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	11.2	12.4	11.3	11.7	11.2	11.4	9.2	2%		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product	22.8	21.3	19.3	20.5	20.9	21.9	21.5	-4%		
Non-metallic mineral product	36.7	36.7	34.7	33.9	41.3	35.7	35.9	-3%		
Metal product	34.7	38.0	35.6	37.1	39.3	35.0	32.7	1%		
Machinery & equipment	28.4	25.9	25.0	26.1	26.0	25.0	24.4	-12%		
Other manufacturing	22.6	26.2	32.3	32.2	34.6	31.3	34.9	38%		
Manufacturing	30.3	30.2	29.1	29.3	29.1	28.8	27.6	-5%		

Table 31 Manufacturing industry: number and incidence rate by industry sub-division, by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000-01 to 2005-06 due to the data for 2006-07 being preliminary and subject to change

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Figures 38 shows that median time lost from work in the Manufacturing industry has recorded a fall from 3.4 working weeks to 3.2 over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, however it has been as high as 3.8. This is a similar pattern to the median time lost for all claims (Figure 38).

The median payment increased 7% from \$5700 to \$6100 for claims in the Manufacturing industry between 2000–01 and 2005–06, lower than the rise of 15% recorded for all claims (Figure 39).

Factors influencing the payments made include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical expenses. The combination of a lower median time lost figure and slightly higher median cost figure for the Manufacturing industry compared with all industries indicates that average salaries in this industry are slightly higher than all industries leading to higher compensation payments.

Figure 38 Manufacturing industry: median time lost from work by year







Fatalities

Table 32 shows the number of fatalities in the Manufacturing industry has fluctuated over recent years, from a high of 45 deaths in 2000–01 to a low of 32 in 2003–04 before climbing back up to 40 in 2005–06. The preliminary data for 2006–07 has 36 fatalities.

The incidence rate of compensated fatalities in the Manufacturing industry also displayed the same pattern, falling from 4.3 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2000–01 down to 3.3 in 2002–03 and 2003–04 before increasing to 4.2 in 2005–06. This resulted in the fatality rate in Manufacturing being 50% higher than the fatality rate for all industries (2.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees) in 2005–06.

Industry sub-division	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p		
	Number of fatalities								
Food, beverage and tobacco	6	7	6	4	8	5	6		
Textile, clothing, footwear & leather	2	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Wood and paper product	1	6	4	2	1	0	7		
Printing, publishing & recorded media	2	3	1	1	2	0	0		
Petroleum, coal, chemical & associated product	3	3	2	4	2	6	2		
Non-metallic mineral product	14	8	6	4	5	8	4		
Metal product	4	6	7	6	11	10	4		
Machinery & equipment	13	4	5	7	6	5	10		
Other manufacturing	0	2	2	4	3	6	3		
Total Manufacturing	45	40	33	32	38	40	36		
	Incidence rate (fatalities per 100 000 employees)								
Manufacturing	4.3	4.1	3.3	3.3	3.9	4.2	3.7		

Table 32 Manufacturing industry: number of compensated fatalities by industry sub-division, by year

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the three-year period 2004–05 to 2006–07p were aggregated for the following analysis.

There were 114 compensated fatalities within the industry during 2004–05 to 2006–07p, 80% of which occurred in four of the nine sub-divisions: Metal product manufacturing (25 fatalities); Machinery and equipment manufacturing (21); Food, beverage and tobacco manufacturing (19); and Non-metallic mineral product manufacturing (17).

Long term contact with chemicals or other substances (mostly exposure to asbestos) was the most common cause of fatalities in the Manufacturing industry between 2004–05 and 2006–07p, representing 28% of the fatalities. A further 20% of fatalities involved a *Vehicle accident*. Other main causes were *Being hit by moving objects* (accounting for 10% of fatalities) and *Being hit by falling objects* (9%).

Multiple injuries was recorded as the type of injury or disease for one-quarter (30 of 114) of the compensated fatalities in the Manufacturing industry between 2004–05 and 2006–07p. *Mesothelioma* and *Asbestosis* were the next most common types of injury or disease, accounting for 17% and 11% of compensated fatalities respectively. Together, these diseases represented all of fatalities involved in the *Long term contact with chemicals and other substances* mechanism as noted above. *Ischaemic heart disease* was involved in a further 7% of fatalities and *Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis* was involved in 6% of fatalities.

Figure 40 shows that fatality rates for individual age groups remained relatively stable between 2 and 4 fatalities per 100 000 employees for employees aged below 55 and increased sharply to 11 fatalities per 100 000 employees for employees aged 55 years and over. One major cause for this high fatality rate of employees aged 55 and over was their long term exposure to chemicals and substances (mostly asbestos), which accounted for 17 of the 41 fatalities in this age group over the period. The long latency of the diseases arising from asbestos exposure means that the dates on which claims are lodged do not relate well to the age at which the incident causing death occurred. Date of claim lodgement is used to determine employee age when incidents occur. This provides accurate data for the majority of fatalities where the interval between the incident causing the injury or illness and death is short but leads to inflated incidence rates in the older age groups for diseases with slow onset.

Figure 40 Manufacturing industry: fatality incidence rate by age, years 2004–05 to 2006–07p combined



Fatalities per 100 000 employees

Mining

An overview

The Mining industry employed 136 000 people in 2006–07, representing 1% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 98% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers).

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 2445 serious workers' compensation claims in the Mining industry, 2% of claims across all industries. This equates to 7 claims per day or 19 claims per 1000 employees involving one or more weeks off work. The Mining industry recorded the fifth highest incidence rate of all industries in 2006–07p.

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

Within the Mining industry, almost 40% of employees were employed in the Metal ore mining group in 2006–07. However, this group accounted for only just over 25% of the serious workers' compensation claims resulting in this group recording one of the lowest rates for the industry (see Table 33).

In contrast, Figure 41 shows that the Coal mining, Other mining services and Construction material mining groups all had a greater proportion of serious claims than expected based on the proportion of employees in these groups. Other mining services recorded the highest incidence rate of serious claims (38 claims per 1000 employees), however, this group accounted for only 8% of employees in the industry.

Figure 41 Mining industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by group, 2006–07p



Gender and age

While female employees represented 14% of the employees in the Mining industry during 2006–07p, they accounted for only 4% of claims. This resulted in female employees recording a much lower incidence rate than men: 6 claims per 1000 female employees compared with 21 claims per 1000 male employees.

Figure 42 shows female employees had much lower incidence rates than male employees in all age groups, reflecting the different types of work undertaken by men and women in this industry. Incidence rates varied little with age for female employees ranging from 4 to 6 claims per 1000 female employees, except for the
45–54 years age group which recorded a higher rate of 9 claims per1000 female employees. For male employees rates decreased slightly with age up to 44 years and then increased substantially for the 55–64 years age group (30 claims per 1000 male employees). A lower than average rate was recorded for the 65 years and over age group (17 claims per 1000 male employees), possibly reflecting the lower employment of workers in this age group (less than 1% of all male employees).



Figure 42 Mining industry: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p

** An incidence rate for women aged 65 years and over is not shown as the estimated number of employees in this cohort is unreliable.

Common causes of serious claims

The most common causes of claims in the Mining industry in 2006–07p were *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* (17% of claims), *Falls on the same level* (14%), *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* (10%) and *Long term exposure to sounds* (9%). The involvement of *Long term exposure to sounds* in this industry was much higher compared with all industries (3%).

These proportions were generally similar between the industry sub-divisions of the Mining industry. However, Oil and gas extraction recorded a greater proportion of claims due to *Falls from a height* (11% of claims compared to 6% for the industry) and Coal mining had a higher proportion of *Long term exposure to sounds* (17% of claims compared to 9% for the industry).

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006–07p, most claims in the Mining industry were injury-related (79%) and the remainder were disease-related (21%). The most common type of injury was *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* (43% of all claims), *Fractures* (11% of all claims), and *Contusion with intact skin surface and crushing injury excluding those with fracture* (6% of all claims).

The most common diseases leading to a claim were *Deafness* (8% of claims), *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* (3% of claims) and *Dorsopathies - disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs* (2% of claims).

These proportions for injury and disease claims were broadly consistent across the industry sub-divisions except for *Deafness*, which accounted for 17% of claims in the Coal mining sub-division.

Common breakdown agencies

There was no predominant breakdown agency in the Mining industry in 2006–07p. The most common agencies were *Other materials and objects* (11% of claims), *Outdoor environment* (11%), *Indoor environment* (9%), *Road Transport* (8%), and *Self-propelled plant* (8%).

These proportions differed between the sub-divisions within the Mining industry. For example, Oil and gas extraction had higher proportions in *Indoor environment* (17% compared to 9% for the industry) and *Other mobile plant* (9% compared to 2% for the industry) and a lower involvement of *Self-propelled plant* (1%). Coal mining had higher proportions in *Underground environment* (10% compared with 4% in the industry) and *Self-propelled plant* (13%).

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

As the 2006–07p data are preliminary, the time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls. Table 33 shows that the incidence rate of compensated claims in the Mining industry fell 36% from 30 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 19 claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06. Nevertheless, at 19 claims per 1000 employees, the incidence rate for this industry in 2005–06 was well above the incidence rate for all claims (15 claims per 1000 employees).

All sub-divisions within the Mining industry experienced large falls in incidence rates between 2000–01 and 2005–06 — most notably a 51% decrease in the rate for the Metal Ore mining sub-division (from 26 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 13 claims per 1000 employees in 2005–06) and a 42% decrease in the rate for the Oil and gas extraction sub-division (from 13 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 8 claims per 1000 employees in 2004–05).

Incidence rates for groups containing relatively low numbers of claims should be interpreted with caution as random annual fluctuations in claim numbers can lead to notable shifts in incidence rates, posing difficulties in comparing rates over time. Estimates of employee numbers in smaller groups can also fluctuate between years also impacting on incidence rates.

Industry sub-division & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	%chg ^(a)
	Number of claims							
Coal mining	605	725	785	840	785	755	795	25%
Oil & gas extraction	70	80	90	75	85	80	85	14%
Metal ore mining	785	765	770	675	645	600	635	-24%
Other mining	335	350	290	405	450	380	375	13%
Construction material mining	255	270	195	235	270	250	265	-2%
Other mining	80	80	95	165	180	130	110	63%
Services to mining	450	400	365	385	450	530	560	18%
Exploration	155	85	85	105	145	165	185	6%
Other mining services	295	310	285	285	305	365	375	24%
Total Mining	2 240	2 320	2 300	2 380	2 415	2 340	2 445	4%
		Inciden	ce rate (cla	aims per 1	000 empl	oyees)		
Coal mining	34.3	38.3	38.5	40.0	31.8	24.8	26.7	-28%
Oil and gas extraction	13.0	23.1	21.9	12.1	11.9	7.5	8.1	-42%
Metal ore mining	26.1	23.4	22.1	18.0	16.8	12.8	12.7	-51%
Other mining ^(b)	37.9	40.1	34.7	51.0	42.3	35.3	35.0	-6%
Services to mining	33.9	32.2	24.7	21.3	23.9	21.8	20.1	-36%
Exploration	14.5	8.4	7.4	7.8	10.8	11.1	10.3	-23%
Other mining services	**	**	81.7	59.2	59.5	38.4	37.8	**
Mining	29.9	30.4	27.9	26.2	24.2	19.1	19.0	-36%

Table 33 Mining industry: number and incidence rate by industry sub-division and group, by year

(a) Percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06 due to the data for 2006–07 being preliminary and subject to change (b) The incidence rate for the sub-groups have been excluded due to high relative standard errors in the estimate of the number of employee.

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Figure 43 shows that the median time lost from work data for the Mining industry have shown more movement than other industries. The shorter median time lost figures recorded for 2001–02 and 2002–03 reflect both a greater incidence of shorter-term claims in those years and a degree of instability in trends over time stemming from the relatively small number of claims in this industry. The median time lost for all industries has remained relatively stable over this period.

In contrast to the median time lost for claims in the Mining industry, the median payment in this industry was substantially higher than that for all industries. Over the period 2000–01 to 2005–06, the median payment in the Mining industry increased 4% from \$10 000 to \$10 400. Figure 44 shows that this was substantially lower than the 15% increase in the median payment of all industries.

Factors influencing the total direct cost of a claim include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical expenses. The combination of a lower median time lost figure and considerably higher median cost figure for the Mining industry compared with all industries indicates that average salaries in this industries are higher than all industries leading to higher compensation payments.



Figure 43 Mining industry: median time lost from work by year



5700

6000

6100

6100

Figure 44 Mining industry: median payment by year

5300

5700

- All claims

Fatalities

Table 34 shows that there was a decline in the number of fatalities in the Mining industry from 18 fatalities in 2000–01 to 6 fatalities in 2004–05. This trend was reversed in 2005–06 with 14 fatalities recorded. The preliminary data for 2006–07 has 7 fatalities.

The incidence rate of compensated fatalities fell appreciably from 24 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2000–01 to 6 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2004–05 before increasing to 11 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2005–06. The growth in the number of employees in this industry sector in recent years has seen the incidence rate decrease 52% compared to the number of fatalities decreasing 22% from 2000–01 to 2005–06. Nevertheless, the incidence rate in the Mining industry in 2005–06 (11 fatalities per 100 000 employees) was more than four times the incidence rate of all industries (2.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees).

Industry subdivision & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p
	Number of fatalities						
Coal mining	3	3	0	2	1	2	0
Oil & gas extraction	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Metal ore mining	7	5	5	2	3	5	2
Other mining	4	1	3	2	1	4	1
Construction material mining	3	1	2	2	1	2	1
Other mining	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Services to mining	2	1	4	2	1	3	4
Exploration	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Other mining services	2	1	4	2	1	2	2
Total Mining	18	10	12	8	6	14	7
	Inci	dence rate	(fatalities	per 100 0	00 employ	ees)	
Mining	24.0	13.1	14.5	8.8	6.0	11.4	5.4

Table 34 Mining industry: number of compensated fatalities by industry sub-division and group, by year

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the five-year period 2002–03 to 2006–07p, were aggregated for the following analysis. There were 47 compensated fatalities within the industry during this period — 17 of these within the Metal ore mining sub-division, 14 within Services to mining and 11 within the Other mining sub-division.

Vehicle accident was the most common cause of compensated fatalities in the Mining industry, accounting for one quarter (12 of 47) of the fatalities that occurred in the period 2002–03 and 2006–07p. Other notable causes of fatalities were *Being hit by moving objects* (19%, 9 deaths) and *Slide or cave in* together with *Long term contact with chemicals or other substances* accounting for 5 deaths each (11% each). Three out of the five deaths from *Long term contact with chemicals or other substances* were due to asbestos exposure.

Multiple injuries was recorded as the type of injury or disease for 41% of the fatalities that occurred in the Mining industry (19 fatalities) from 2002–03 to 2006–07p. A further 4 fatalities involved *Fractures*; 3 from *Intracranial injury, including concussion*; and 3 from *Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis.*

There was no clear relationship between age and the incidence rate of fatalities in the Mining industry (Figure 45). This contrasts with the other industries where there is typically an increase in incidence rates with age. In the Mining industry, age specific incidence rates ranged from 6 fatalities per 100 000 for employees in the 45-54 age group to 13 fatalities per 100 000 for employees in the 15-24 age group.

The greatest number of fatalities was recorded by employees aged 35-44 (16 of the 47 fatalities) and the smallest number was recorded by those aged 55 and over (5 fatalities).





Fatalities per 100 000 employees

Transport and storage

An overview

The Transport and Storage industry employed 471 000 people in Australia in 2006–07, 5% of the Australian workforce. The following workers' compensation statistics relate to the 87% of workers in this industry who were classified as employees in that year (i.e. excluding self-employed workers).

The preliminary data for 2006–07 show there were 10 765 serious workers' compensation claims in the Transport and Storage industry, 8% of claims across all industries. This equates to 29 claims per day or 26 claims per 1000 employees involving one or more weeks off work. The Transport and Storage industry recorded the second-highest incidence rate of all industries in 2006–07p, nearly twice the national rate of 14 claims per 1000 employees.

Characteristics of serious claims in the most recent data (2006-07p)

Industry profile

Within the Transport and Storage industry, the Road freight transport group accounted for the largest proportion of employees (30%) and the largest proportion of serious claims (38%). Despite recording a significantly higher proportion of claims than the proportion of employees, the Road freight transport group recorded only the third highest incidence rate of serious claims (33 claims per 1000 employees) (see Table 35).

In contrast, the Air and space transport group recorded a much smaller proportion of claims (5%) than expected based on the proportion of employees (12%) to record the lowest incidence rate (12 claims per 1000 employees). The highest incidence rates were recorded by the groups with very small numbers of employees and disproportionally more claims.

Figure 46 Transport and storage industry: proportion of employees and serious claims by groups, 2006–07p



Gender and age

While female employees represented 27% of the employees in the Transport and storage industry in 2006–07p, they accounted for only 10% of the claims in this industry. This resulted in female employees recording a much lower incidence rate than male employees (9 claims per 1000 female employees compared with 32 claims per 1000 male employees).

Figure 47 shows incidence rates for male employees in the Transport and storage industry in 2006–07p, were similar for 25 to 64 year old employees, averaging 33 claims per 1000 male employees. A much lower rate occurred among those aged 65 years and over (16 claims per 1000 employees), although this figure should be interpreted with some caution in view of the small number of men still at work in this industry after reaching 65 years.

For female employees, the rate increased with age from 7 claims per 1000 female employees for those aged 15–24 years to 13 claims per 1000 female employees for those aged 45–54 years and then fell for females aged 55–64 years to 8 claims per 1000 female employees.



Figure 47 Transport and storage industry: incidence rate by gender and age, 2006–07p

** An incidence rate for women aged 65 years and over is not shown as the estimated number of employees in this cohort is unreliable.

Common causes of serious claims

Body stressing was the most common cause of claims in the Transport and storage industry in 2006–07p, accounting for 42% of all claims. *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying or putting down objects* had the largest representation in the *Body stressing* group, with 21% of all claims, followed by *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down,* with 15% of all claims. Other common causes were *Falls on the same level* (12%) and *Falls from a height* (8%). A higher proportion of claims in this industry involved *Vehicle accident* (6%) compared with all industries (2% of claims).

These proportions were broadly consistent across all of the industry groups except for more involvement of *Body stressing* in Services to transport (in which stevedoring is a class) (60% of claims), Air and space transport (58%), Storage (55%) and Other transport (54%). The increased proportions of claims involving *Body stressing* in these groups were offset by lower proportions in *Falls on the same level* and *Falls from a height*.

Common types of injury and disease

In 2006–07p, 72% of serious claims in the Transport and storage industry were injury-related with the remaining 28% being disease-related. The most common injury-related claims involved *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* (43% of all claims), *Fractures* (9% of claims), and *Contusion with intact skin surface and crushing injury excluding those with fracture* (8%).

The most common diseases leading to a claim involved *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* and *Dorsopathies - disorders of the spinal vertebrae and intervertebral discs* accounting for 7% of claims each. *Mental disorders* accounted for a further 5% of claims.

These proportions were similar across the industry groups except for the Rail transport group which recorded a higher proportion of *Mental disorders* (26% of claims) and a lower proportion of *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles*

(30%). The higher proportion of *Mental disorders* claims were linked to vehicle accidents (28% of these claims) and exposure to a traumatic event (15% of these claims).

The other group to record a different pattern was the Air and space transport group which recorded a higher proportion of *Disorders of muscle, tendons and other soft tissues* and *Dorsopathies (18%)* and lower proportions across the other common types of injury and disease.

Common breakdown agencies

Fastening, packing and packaging equipment was responsible for the greatest proportion of claims in the Transport and storage industry (18% of all claims). It was the most common breakdown agency in all the subdivisions within the industry except in the Road transport and Rail transport subdivisions, and accounted for between 12% and 40% of claims. Other common breakdown agencies were *Road transport* (16% of claims), *Outdoor environment* (8% of claims) and *Other materials and objects* (8% of claims).

In the Road transport and Rail transport subdivisions, the most common breakdown agencies were, not surprisingly, *Road transport* (trucks, buses, cars etc) accounting for 27% of claims and *Rail transport* (railway lines, locomotives, rolling stock etc) accounting for 20% of claims.

The Rail transport subdivision also recorded 19% of claims due to *Human agencies* with the majority of these claims due to the action of another person. Most of these claims resulted in claims for mental disorders. *Human agencies* were not major breakdown agencies in the other subdivisions of the Transport and storage industry, where they only accounted for between 2 and 4% of claims.

The Storage subdivision recorded the highest proportion of claims (40%) due to *Fastening, packing and packaging equipment.* Three-quarters of these claims involved packing boxes such as crates and cartons. The next highest proportion of claims were due to the use of *Conveyors and lifting equipment* and accounted for 9% of claims in this subdivision.

Changes in characteristics of serious claims over time

As the 2006–07p data are preliminary, the time series comparisons extend only to 2005–06 so as not to overstate any percentage falls. Table 35 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the incidence rate of serious claims in the Transport and storage industry decreased 15%: from 32 claims per 1000 employees to 28 claims per 1000 employees. This decrease is similar to the decrease in the incidence rate for all claims (16%). Nonetheless, the incidence rate in the Transport and storage industry in 2005–06 remained nearly double the incidence rate for all claims.

In 2005–06, the Storage sub-division had the highest incidence rate of all sub-divisions within the Transport and storage industry (35 claims per 1000 employees), followed by the Rail transport and Road transport (both with 31 claims per 1000 employees) sub-divisions. The sub-division with the lowest incidence rate in the industry was Air and space transport (14 claims per 1000 employees).

There were very high incidence rates in Services to water transport and Services to air transport groups but these industry groups only accounted for 5% of employees in the Transport and storage industry in 2006–07. Approximately half of the Services to water transport claims were in the Stevedoring class of this industry group.

Incidence rates for groups containing relatively low numbers of claims should be interpreted with caution as random annual fluctuations in claim numbers can lead to notable shifts in incidence rates, posing difficulties in comparing rates over time. Estimates of employee numbers in smaller groups can also fluctuate between years also impacting on incidence rates.

Table 35	Transport and storage industry: number and incidence rate by industry
	sub-division and group, by year

Industry sub-division								
& group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p	%chg ^(a)
			Num	ber of clai	ms			
Road transport	5 610	5 490	5 325	5 240	5 150	5 195	5 030	-7%
Road freight transport	4 495	4 360	4 270	4 150	4 150	4 290	4 135	-5%
Road passenger transport	1 120	1 125	1 055	1 090	1 000	905	895	-19%
Rail transport	1 155	1 265	1 265	1 215	1 245	1 345	1 195	16%
Water transport	340	330	290	345	285	300	295	-12%
Air and space transport	1 275	1 045	960	855	845	760	585	-40%
Other transport	280	235	295	260	130	90	400	-68%
Services to transport	1 575	1 730	1 815	2 020	1 920	1 940	1 835	23%
Services to road transport	130	175	195	185	170	210	170	62%
Services to water transport	645	685	675	675	610	650	595	1%
Services to air transport	95	150	230	275	310	285	305	200%
Other services to transport	705	720	715	880	825	800	765	13%
Storage	1 345	1 550	1 440	1 550	1 650	1 550	1 420	15%
Total Transport and storage	11 580	11 640	11 385	11 485	11 225	11 180	10 765	-3%
		Inciden	ce rate (cla	aims per 1	000 empl	oyees)		
	0 - 0	a						(

			,					
Road transport	37.0	34.5	33.2	30.4	30.7	31.1	28.3	-16%
Road freight transport	42.5	38.8	37.3	32.8	36.6	37.1	33.4	-13%
Road passenger transport	24.4	24.1	23.0	23.6	18.5	17.7	16.6	-27%
Rail transport	29.8	38.0	33.6	29.8	30.6	31.4	31.5	5%
Water transport	23.5	21.5	20.8	22.4	17.5	19.7	17.2	-16%
Air and space transport	23.5	20.6	20.5	18.4	16.9	14.2	11.5	-40%
Other transport ^(b)	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	
Services to transport	23.1	26.3	29.0	28.0	25.5	24.8	23.6	7%
Services to road transport	29.3	41.6	37.5	28.5	35.1	41.2	33.1	41%
Services to water transport	51.1	46.9	52.3	50.9	47.2	45.2	43.3	-12%
Services to air transport	13.2	25.3	38.5	40.2	48.1	34.1	40.1	158%
Other services to transport	16.0	17.5	18.5	19.4	16.2	15.8	14.9	-1%
Storage	44.1	65.7	54.9	52.7	36.8	34.5	29.6	-22%
Transport and storage	32.3	33.4	32.7	30.5	28.4	27.6	25.7	-15%

(a) Percentage change from 2000–01 to 2005–06 due to the data for 2006–07 being preliminary and subject to change.
(b) Incidence rates for Other transport are excluded due to high relative standard errors in the estimate of employee numbers.

Payments made and duration of serious claims

Figures 48 shows that between 2000–01 and 2005–06, the median time lost from work for claims in this industry remained similar to the median time lost for all industries. The median payment however increased at a greater rate: 26% from \$5000 to \$6300 compared with the 15% increase in median for all claims (Figure 49). Factors influencing the payments made include the employee's salary level, the length of absence from work and medical expenses.



Figure 48 Transport and storage industry: median time lost from work by year

Figure 49 Transport and storage industry: median payment by year



Fatalities

The number of fatalities in the Transport and storage industry declined from 57 fatalities in 2000–01 to 47 fatalities in 2005–06, although there was a large spike in 2002–03 when 68 deaths were recorded. However, Table 36 shows the number of fatalities has remained relatively stable with 47 - 48 fatalities per year since 2003–04. The preliminary data for 2006–07 has 45 fatalities.

Fatality incidence rates followed a similar pattern, though increasing employment in this industry resulted in slight improvements in rates over the last few years. Despite this the fatality incidence rate of 12 fatalities per 100 000 employees in 2005–06 was four times the rate across all industries (2.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees).

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from the three years 2004–05 to 2006–07p were aggregated in the following analysis. Over this period there were 140 compensated fatalities within the industry. Two-thirds of these fatalities occurred in the Road freight transport group.

Vehicle accident was the most common cause of compensated fatalities in this industry between 2004–05 and 2006–07p, accounting for two-thirds of fatalities (91 of 140). The Road freight transport group accounted for 73 of these fatalities. Notably, truck drivers were involved in 85% of the Road freight transport fatalities and 61% of all compensated fatalities in the Transport and Storage industry over this three-year period. Injuries accounted for 90% of all claims in this industry with

Industry sub-division & group	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07p
	Number of fatalities						
Road transport	42	45	45	38	35	35	34
Road freight transport	34	41	39	34	31	31	31
Road passenger transport	8	4	6	4	4	4	3
Rail transport	1	2	6	0	1	1	1
Water transport	3	0	2	0	1	0	1
Air and space transport	3	6	2	1	5	5	0
Other transport	1	1	1	2	1	0	3
Services to transport	5	4	9	5	4	2	6
Services to road transport	3	2	2	2	2	1	4
Services to water transport	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Services to air transport	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other services to transport	2	2	5	3	2	1	2
Storage	2	0	3	1	1	1	0
Total Transport and storage	57	58	68	47	48	47	45
	Incidence rate (fatalities per 100 000 employees)						
Transport and storage	15.9	16.6	19.5	12.5	12.1	11.6	10.8

Table 36Transport and storage industry: number of compensated fatalities by industrysub-division and group, by year

Multiple injuries accounting for half of the fatalities between 2004–05 and 2006–07p with *Internal injuries of chest, abdomen and pelvis* accounting for 5% and *Intracranial injury, including concussion* accounting for 4%.

Incidence rates generally increased with employee age: from 5 fatalities per 100 000 employees for those in the 15–24 years age group to 17 fatalities per 100 000 employees for those in the 55 years and over age group (Figure 50). Except for the 15–24 years group, which had 6 fatalities in the three-year period, all other age groups had similar numbers of fatalities (ranging from 32 to 34 fatalities).

Figure 50 Transport and storage industry: fatality incidence rate by age, years 2004–05 to 2006–07p combined



Part E Feature Article – Journey claims

In the context of workers' compensation, a journey claim involves an injury or disease resulting from the employee's means of travel to or from work. Means of travel includes all types of vehicle from cars to buses and trains as well as walking to and from work. However, as only half the employees in Australia have cover under workers' compensation for journeys to or from work, data used in the *Compendium* do not include journey claims and restrict analysis to incidents that occur while working for income. The purpose of this article is to provide some details regarding journey claims.

It should be noted that while workers' compensation may not be available to all employees, those involved in a vehicle accident can obtain compensation through Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance payable with vehicle registrations. Generally workers' compensation and CTP systems provide the same level of compensation but workers' compensation has the advantage of being more immediate than CTP and hence it is expected that where available, employees would choose to lodge a workers' compensation claim over a CTP one. But, it is possible that the journey claim numbers shown in this report are underestimated due to some employees with workers' compensation coverage choosing to lodge their claim through the CTP system.

Jurisdictions where workers' compensation cover was available up to 2006–07 were New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland and up to March 2007, the Comcare scheme for Australian Government employees. These jurisdictions employ 54% of all employees and hence claims numbers shown in this report are likely to represent only half of the incidents that occurred. Incidence rates have, however, been calculated using only employee numbers from jurisdictions where cover is available and are therefore likely to represent the pattern of journey claims nationally.

Journey claims by gender

The preliminary 2006–07 data shows there were 14 585 claims for injuries or diseases that resulted from journeys to and from work in the jurisdictions listed above. Female employees lodged 53% of these claims while male employees lodged 47%. This is a different pattern to non-journey claims where 68% of claims were lodged by male employees and 32% by female employees.

Taking into account only the employees that have workers' compensation coverage for journeys to and from work, this number of claims equates to 2.9 claims per 1000 employees. This incidence rate is calculated using all claims and is not restricted to claims that have reached one week of time lost, as in the rest of this publication. If the claims were restricted to those resulting in one or more weeks off work then only half of the journey claims would be included in this analysis and the incidence rate would be 1.4 journey claims per 1000 employees. When compared to the 14.2 non-journey claims per 1000 employees shown in Table 1 in Part A, it can be said that employees are ten times more likely to lodge a claim for an injury or disease that occurred while working.

Figure 51 shows that the incidence rate of journey claims has remained fairly stable over the past seven years. While female and male employees had nearly the same number of claims, differences in labour force participation resulted in female employees recording a higher incidence rate than male employees (3.2 journey claims per 1000 female employees compared to 2.6 journey claims per 1000 male employees).

Figure 51 Journey claims: incidence rate by gender, 2006–07p



Journey claims by mechanism of injury or disease

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of journey claims in 2006–07 were due to Vehicle Accident with a further 18% due to Falls on the same level and 4% each due to Being hit by moving objects (mainly being hit by a car) and Falls from a height.

Figure 52 shows that the pattern of journey claims by gender with male employees recording a greater proportion of journey claims due to Vehicle Accident than female employees (69% for males compared to 58% for females), and female employees recording a greater proportion due to Falls on the same level (25% for females compared to 11% for males).

Figure 52 Journey claims: proportion of claims by mechanism and gender, 2006–07p



When the data for *Vehicle Accident* is expressed as a rate it equates to 1.8 journey claims lodged per 1000 male employees and 1.9 per 1000 female employees, indicating similar rates by gender for travelling to and from work. This is different to the pattern observed in the non-journey claims where male employees lodged three times the rate of claims due to Vehicle Accident than female employees.

Comparison with data from the 2004–05 National Health Survey on vehicle accidents resulting in an injury requiring treatment¹ revealed that males were three times more likely than females to incur an injury following a vehicle accident. The data recorded an injury rate of 3.2 per 1000 males in the population compared to 1.0 per 1000 females. This pattern is similar to the non-journey claims data. One explanation of this difference in pattern between the journey and non-journey claims is that males spend more time in vehicles than females².

¹ Injury resulting in consulting a health professional, seeking medical advice, receiving medical treatment, reduced usual activities and other treatment of injury (e.g. ice pack, bandage). Injury occurred in 4 weeks prior to survey ² Australian Social Trends 1996, Survey of Car Use, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Expressing the *Falls on the same level* data as rates by gender shows that there were 0.8 female employees per 1000 recording this mechanism on their claims compared to 0.3 for male employees. Once again this is a different pattern to that for non-journey claims where rates were more similar but with male employees recording the higher rate (1.6 claims per 1000 female employees compared to 2.0 for male employees). Uneven ground surfaces or hazards on the ground were the cause of most of the falls.

Journey claims by age

Figure 53 shows that female employees had higher journey incidence rates than male employees for all age groups in 2006–07, though rates for the 15 to 24 years age group were very similar (2.9 journey claims per 1000 females compared to 2.8 for males). The largest difference in the rates by gender was in the 65 and over age group where female employees recorded more than three times the incidence rate recorded by males (4.0 journey claims per 1000 employees for females compared to 1.3 for males). Data from this group should be treated with caution due to the small number of claims (160) and that many workers' compensation schemes do not provide coverage past 65.



Figure 53 Journey claims: incidence rates by gender and age, 2006–07p

While the incidence rates for female employees showed a general increase with age, rising from 2.9 journey claims per 1000 female employees in the 15–24 age group to a rate of 4.0 in the 65 and over age group, the rates for male employees showed a decrease with age from 2.8 journey claims per 1000 male employees in the 15–24 age group to 1.3 claims per 1000 male employees in the 65 years and over age group.

One of the reasons for this difference in pattern is due to the increasing number of claims from female employees due to falls as they age compared to claims for injuries from vehicle accidents. In the 55–64 years age group, the proportion of claims due to *Falls on the same level* had grown to 42% of all journey claims with *Vehicle Accident* accounting for 38%. In contrast, of the journey claims lodged by male employees in the 55–64 years age group 57% were due to *Vehicle Accident* and 19% from *Falls on the same level*.

Time lost

Figure 54 shows that female employees had a slightly greater proportion of claims resulting in less than one week of time lost from work than male employees (56% for females compared to 49% for males). This results in the median time lost for females being 0.6 working weeks in 2006–07p compared to 1.0 working weeks for male employees.



Figure 54 Journey claims: proportion of claims by time lost from work, 2006–07p

However, if the claims with less than one week of time lost are excluded (as they are in the rest of this publication) then the median time lost for female employees with serious journey claims would be 3.4 working weeks and for male employees 4.1 working weeks. This pattern is almost the opposite of that shown for non-journey claims (Figure 19 in Part C), where female employees had a higher median time lost (4.4 working weeks) compared to male employees (3.4 working weeks). It does however show that around the same period of time off from work is required for journey claims as for non-journey claims.

Journey claims by industry

Figure 55 shows that in 2006–07p, female employees recorded higher or equal incidence rates for journey claims in all industries except for the Retail trade industry where the incidence rate for female employees was 2.1 journey claims per 1000 employees compared to 2.7 for male employees.



Figure 55 Journey claims: incidence rates by gender and industry, 2006–07p

The highest rate for female employees was recorded in the Finance and insurance industry with 6.2 journey claims per 1000 female employees, nearly twice the rate for all industries of 3.2 journey claims per 1000 female employees. The higher incidence rate is due to much higher levels of claiming due to *Vehicle Accident* and *Falls on the same level* from females in this industry compared to all other industries. Similarly, the high incidence rate in the Manufacturing industry (4.5 journey claims per 1000 female employees) was also due to a much higher rate of claiming for *Vehicle Accident* compared to other industries.

The highest incidence rate for male employees was recorded in the Manufacturing industry with 3.7 journey claims per 1000 male employees followed by the Transport and storage industry with 3.3 journey claims per 1000 male employees. The higher rates in these industries were due to a higher incidence of *Vehicle Accident* compared to the other industries.

The Finance and insurance industry recorded the largest difference in rates between the genders with the rate for female employees (6.2 journey claims per 1000 female employees) more than twice the rate for male employees (2.9 claims per 1000 male employees). As explained earlier, female employees recorded much higher claim rates for *Vehicle Accident* and *Falls on the same level* than male employees in this industry.

The Electricity, gas and water supply industry also recorded a large difference between the genders: 4.1 for female employees compared to 1.8 for male employees. The rate for male employees was particularly low due to a lower than average incidence of *Vehicle Accident* while the rate for females in this industry was higher than the average due to a much higher incidence of *Falls on the same level*.

Incidence rates were the same for female and male employees in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing (1.2 journey claims per 1000 employees), Retail trade (2.0 journey claims per 1000 employees) and Cultural and recreational services (2.0 journey claims per 1000 employees) industries.

Journey claims by occupation

Figure 56 shows that incidence rates vary considerably by gender for journey claims across the occupation groups with female employees recording higher rates than males in 5 of the 9 occupation groups. The highest incidence rates for female employees in 2006–07 were from Tradespersons and related workers (4.1 journey claims per 1000 female employees), Managers and administrators (3.9), Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (3.8) and Labourers and related workers (3.7). The highest rates for male employees were recorded by Labourers and related workers with 4.1 journey claims per 1000 male employees followed by Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (3.4).



Figure 56 Journey claims: incidence rates by gender and occupation, 2006–07p

Similar rates were recorded for male and female employees in a number of occupation groups with Intermediate production and transport workers and Elementary clerical, sales and service workers recording the closest rates.

The largest difference by gender was recorded for Managers and administrators (3.9 journey claims per 1000 female employees compared to 1.5 journey claims per 1000 male employees). The higher incidence rate for female employees was due to higher rates of claim across all mechanisms. However, low rates of claims due to *Vehicle Accident* compared to other occupations resulted in the overall lower rate for male Managers and administrators.

There was also a large difference between the genders for Tradespersons and related workers (4.1 for females compared to 2.7 for males). While the rate for male employees in this occupation group was similar to the average for all occupations, the rate for female employees was high due to a higher incidence of *Vehicle Accident*.

Journey claims by nature of injury or disease

Over half (54%) of all journey claims resulted in *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* with the proportion of claims for female employees being slightly higher than the proportion for male employees (58% of female claims compared to 50% of male claims). Figure 57 shows that the next most common nature of injury or disease was *Fractures* which accounted for 13% of journey claims. Male employees recorded nearly twice the proportion of claims due to *Fractures* compared to female employees (17% of male claims compared to 9% of female claims).

Contusion with intact skin surface accounted for a further 11% of journey claims with proportions between male and female employees similar (11% of male claims compared to 12% of female claims). *Open wound not involving traumatic amputation* was the only other notable category, accounting for 4% of journey claims.

Figure 57 Journey claims: proportion of claims by Nature of injury or disease, 2006–07p



* other refers to all injuries and diseases not shown in the graph and is not a formal group in the Nature of injury or disease classification

Journey claims by bodily location of injury or disease

At the broadest level of the classification, the most common bodily locations for journey claims were *Multiple locations* and *Lower limbs*, each accounted for 22% of all journey claims in 2006–07p.

Figure 58 shows the percentage distribution of journey claims in 2006–07p by gender. This shows that male and female employees have the same rate of claim for injuries involving *Lower limbs* and *Trunk*, however females have a higher rate of claim for *Neck* while males have a higher rate of claim for *Upper limbs*.



Figure 58 Journey claims: proportion of claims by bodily location of injury or disease, 2006–07p

Journey claims by breakdown agency of injury or disease

Since 63% of claims were due to vehicle accidents, it is not surprising that 55% of journey claims involved *Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities* with *Motorcycles and sidecars, scooters, trailbikes* and *Pushbikes* accounting for a further 4% each. *Trucks, semi-trailers, lorries* accounted for 2% of journey claims while *Buses, trolleybuses, minibuses* accounted for 1%. Falls were mainly due to traffic and ground surfaces with 10% of journey claims due to uneven surfaces and 3% of claims each due to *Steps and stairways* and *Wet, oily or icy traffic and ground surfaces*.

Fatal journey claims

In 2006–07, there 64 compensated fatalities for journeys to and from work, comprising 48 male employees and 16 female employees. As explained earlier, due to the limitations of workers' compensation, these data represent about half the number of employees who were fatally injured on their journey to or from work.

Figure 59 shows that the incidence rate of fatal journey claims has remained relatively consistent over the period of 2000–01 to 2005–06 ranging from 1.4 fatalities per 100 000 employees recorded in 2003–04 to 1.9 recorded in 2001–02 and 2005–06. The preliminary data for 2006–07 shows a large fall to 1.3 fatalities per 100 000 employees, however, this rate is expected to rise as more claims are accepted for compensation.



Figure 59 Fatal journey claims: incidence rates by gender and year

The figure also shows that male employees are over twice as likely as female employees to incur a fatality while travelling to or from work. In 2006–07p, males recorded 1.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees compared to 0.7 for females.

While the rate for female employees is similar to the rate for non-journey claims (0.5 fatalities per 100 000 female employees), the rate for male employees is considerably smaller than the 4.4 fatalities per 100 000 recorded for non-journey claims. This suggests that male employees are more than twice as likely to die as a result of an injury incurred while working as they are while travelling to and from work.

Characteristics of fatalities

In order to produce a more robust analysis of fatality characteristics, data from 2004–05 to 2006–07p have been aggregated in the following analyses. Over this period there were 229 fatalities that were compensated for journeys to and from work. This equated to 1.6 fatalities per 100 000 employees or 2.3 fatalities per 100 000 male employees and 0.8 fatalities per 100 000 female employees.

The highest mechanism of injury or disease over the period 2004–05 to 2006–07p, was *Vehicle Accident*, accounting for 86% of the fatalities (197 of the 229 fatalities). Two-thirds of these were male employees. When expressed as a rate this equates to male employees having a fatality rate three times that of female employees (0.6 fatalities per 100 000 female employees compared to 2.0 for male employees).

The ratio of males to females for journey claims is consistent with national data on road deaths³ for all road users⁴ which showed that in 2006 males were three times more likely to die as a result of a vehicle accident than females: 11.6 male fatalities per 100 000 male population compared to 3.9 female fatalities per 100 000 female population.

Being hit by moving objects was the next highest mechanism of injury or disease accounting for 15 fatality claims (7%). This mechanism includes being hit by a vehicle.

Since 86% of fatality claims were the result of vehicle accidents, it is not surprising that 65% of fatalities (149 of the 229 claims) involved *Cars, station wagons, vans, utilities. Trucks, semi-trailers and lorries* accounted for a further 16 fatalities (7%) while *Motorcycles and sidecars, scooters, trailbikes* accounted for 15 deaths and *Passenger Aircraft* for 8.

The occupation with the highest incidence rate for both male and female employees was Labourers and related workers, with 4.7 fatalities per 100 000 male employees and 2.3 fatalities per 100 000 female employees. Figure 60 shows that over the period 2004–05 to 2006–07p, male employees had higher fatality incidence rates than females in all occupations, except Advanced clerical and service workers where there were no male deaths but 4 female fatalities during this period.

The second highest incidence rate of fatality for male employees was recorded by Intermediate production and transport workers, with 3.8 fatalities per 100 000 employees for males compared. There were too few fatalities in this occupation group to reliably produce an incidence rate for female employees.

The pattern of fatalities by occupation differs across the genders. While roughly similar rates were recorded for Professionals (1.0 for males and 0.7 for females), the incidence rate for male Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers was over four and a half times the rate for female workers (1.9 for males compared to 0.4 for females) and the male rate for Labourers and related workers was twice the rate for female employees. These differences are due to different rates of claim for *Vehicle Accident*.

³ Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Affairs and Local Government. Road Safety 2008. Road Deaths Australia: 2007 Statistical Summary. Road Safety Report Number 1. Canberra ⁴ Includes drivers, occupants, motorcycle riders and passengers and pedestrians.



Figure 60 Fatal journey claims: incidence rates by gender and occupation, 2004–05 to 2006–07p

Appendix 1 — Definitions and explanatory notes

1. Definitions

Frequency rate

The frequency rate of occupational injuries and diseases is the number of claims expressed as a rate per million hours worked by employees. Frequency rates were calculated using the following formula:

number of occupational injury and disease claims x 1 000 000

number of hours worked by employees

Frequency rates for fatalities are expressed as a rate for 100 million hours.

Incidence rate

The incidence rate of occupational injuries and diseases is the number of claims expressed as a rate per thousand employees. Incidence rates were calculated using the following formula:

number of occupational injury and disease claims x 1000

number of employees

Incidence rates for fatalities are expressed as a rate per 100 000 employees.

Median

The median is a measure of central tendency of a sample and is the value for which one half (50%) of the observations (when ranked from smallest to largest) will lie above that value and one half will lie below that value. When the number of values in the sample is even, the median is computed as the average of the two middle values.

In this publication, median payment figures and median time lost from work are used to give some indication of a 'typical' claim. Medians are used as the average is skewed by the inclusion of a few claims that involved long periods of time off work and/or large compensation payments. The average figures, particularly for the most recent years, are also subject to much greater revisions in future publications as the claims develop. Medians are not greatly affected as the 'typical' claim is finalised within a few months.

Serious claims

Only serious workers' compensation claims are included in this publication. Serious claims are those lodged in the reference year and accepted for compensation by the jurisdiction by the date the data are extracted and involve a death; a permanent incapacity; or a temporary incapacity with an absence from work of one working week or more. Common law claims are included. Permanent incapacity is determined by each jurisdiction and can include a total incapacity for work or a permanent impairment which may require a change of tasks or responsibilities.

Occupational diseases

Occupational diseases are work-related diseases which result from repeated or long term exposure to an agent or event, or which result from a single traumatic event where there was a long latency period: for example, the development of hepatitis following a single exposure to the infection.

Workers' compensation data are not an ideal measure of the extent of work-related disease since, for a variety of reasons, many diseases do not result

in a compensation claim, the main one being that due to long latency periods it may not be possible to establish conclusively a relationship between the disease and workplace exposure. Therefore the monitors other sources of information with reports available on the ASCC website.

Occupational injuries

Occupational injuries are work-related injuries which result from a single traumatic event occurring while a person is on duty or during a recess period and where there was a short or non-existent latency period. This includes injuries which are the result of a single exposure to an agent causing an acute toxic effect.

The terms 'occupational injuries' and 'occupational diseases' are defined in the *National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics, 2nd edition, May 1999* (NDS). Their definitions and use are in accordance with the resolutions of the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, October 1982.

Payments

Payments include compensation or weekly benefits paid to a worker or the worker's family; payments for goods and services (such as medical treatment, funeral expenses, rehabilitation services); and non-compensation payments (such as legal costs, transport and interpreter services). Payments do not include estimates of future liability or any indirect costs such as loss of productivity (except in the case of common law claims).

Reference year

Within this publication the reference year refers to a claim lodged in a particular financial year. This figure will not include claims still open from previous years. Only claims which have been accepted for liability are included in this publication.

Working week

One working week is defined as being lost when the number of hours an employee was absent from work was equal to or greater than the number of hours they usually worked per week.

2. Scope and coverage

The statistics presented in this publication are compiled annually from serious claims made under the state, territory and Australian Government workers' compensation Acts. The data shown for 2006–07 refer to all accepted claims lodged from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, extracted as at 30 November 2007.

There has been a substantial decrease in the number of claims reported in this publication that has also affected the estimates of time lost and payments made for claims. This is due to a major resupply of data by one jurisdiction. In reporting using the new data items under NDS3, New South Wales identified an error in the way they had previously supplied data. This error involved the reporting of all received claims rather than restricting to accepted claims only. This has resulted in around 5000 claims being removed from the scope of this publication. In addition, as the rejected and pending claims had limited time lost and payments, increases have been recorded in the median figures of time lost and payments made in this report. As New South Wales were only able to supply corrected information back to 2000–01, time series data have been restricted from this year onwards.

The statistics in this report do not cover all cases of occupational injuries and diseases for the following reasons:

- Occupational injuries involving temporary incapacity and resulting in an absence from work of less than one usual working week are not included.
- Occupational injuries and diseases occurring on a journey to or from work have not been included.

- While the majority of employees are covered for workers' compensation under general state, territory and Australian Government workers' compensation legislation some specific groups of workers are covered under separate legislation. Every effort has been made to compile data from all groups of employees, but it is known that currently, claims lodged by police in Western Australia and military personnel within the Defence Forces are excluded.
- Some mesothelioma cases (associated with work-related exposure to asbestos) are compensated through mechanisms other than workers' compensation. Consequently, mesothelioma claims in this publication are known to be understated.
- Cases not claimed as workers' compensation or not acknowledged as being work-related are excluded.
- Most occupational injuries to self-employed workers are excluded because they are generally not covered by workers' compensation schemes. The exclusion of self-employed workers results in an understatement of the number of work-related injuries or diseases within industries where self-employed workers are common, for example, Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Construction; Transport and storage — Road transport; and Retail trade. However, incidence and frequency rates are calculated using estimates of employees and hours worked that exclude self-employed workers and hence are considered to accurately reflect the occurrence of work-related injury and disease in the workplace.

3. Age of employee

The age of the employee used in this report is derived from date of birth and the date on which the injury occurred or, if the claim involved an occupational disease, the date when the disease was first reported to the employer. Data relating to the open ended age group 65 years and over should be interpreted with caution because of the limited eligibility for workers' compensation among workers within this age group which may allow for medical costs to be paid but no weekly benefits. As time lost is not recorded when weekly benefits are not paid, claims from older workers' compensation by jurisdiction can be found in the publication *Comparison of workers' compensation arrangements in Australia and New Zealand, October 2007.*

4. Time lost from work

Time lost figures shown in this publication are presented in terms of working weeks lost from work. Information relating to time lost from work should be examined with caution for the following reasons:

- Time lost from work refers to the total period for which compensation was paid — the time lost is not necessarily continuous. Where an injured employee has returned to work on a part-time basis, the time lost from work is the total amount of time for which compensation has been paid — it does not represent the total period of incapacity.
- Time lost from work does not include estimates of future absence. However, it is unlikely that this would affect the median figures presented in this publication.
- Median working weeks lost have been calculated including claims where zero days have been lost, as is the case for some permanent disabilities such as deafness where the disability does not preclude the worker being at work.

5. Payments

Median figures for payments are rounded to the nearest \$100 in this publication. Medians are used as the average is skewed by the few long-term claims that involve large compensation payments. The reader should not use the median payment multiplied by the number of claims to calculate the total cost of work-related injury and disease in Australia.

Unlike median time lost from work, median payments are calculated excluding claims where total payments are zero. The rationale for this treatment of payments is that, whereas occurrences with zero time lost are valid observations because some permanent disabilities never result in time lost, an occurrence which has been compensated should almost always have a payment figure associated with it. There can be some delays in this payment information being applied to the claim record and hence claims with no payments are excluded from the median calculation. As this particularly impacts on the preliminary year, payment information for this year are not presented in this publication.

6. Industry classification

The industry shown in this publication is the industry of the employer of the injured worker. The industry is classified in accordance with the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993 edition* (ABS Cat. No. 1292.0). There are some industries who employ workers engaged under labour hire arrangements. Injuries to these workers will be shown under Property and business services as the industry of the employer of the worker regardless of the industry where the injury actually occurred. In addition, due to the limitations of the ABS in collecting detailed information on employment, some employee estimates can only be supplied at a higher level of the classification. Some pro-rating of estimates has been undertaken in Part D Priority Industry Profiles to ensure robust incidence rates are provided.

7. Occupation classification

The occupation of the worker has been classified in accordance with the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO), Second Edition, July 1997* (ABS Cat. No. 1222.0).

8. Type of occurrence data

Details of the 'description of the occurrence' reported on the workers' compensation claim have been classified according to the *Type of Occurrence Classification System, Second Edition*, (May 2002) (TOOCS2.1). See:-

ascc.gov.au/ascc/aboutus/publications/statreports/

The changeover from coding based on TOOCS1 to coding based on TOOCS2 took place on 1 July 2000. From 2000–01 onwards, the major difference is the inclusion of a new code, *Agency of injury or disease*. The five classifications used to describe the type of occurrence are:

Nature of Injury or Disease

The Nature of injury or disease refers to the most serious injury or disease sustained or suffered by the worker.

In Part C: Trends over time, *Disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* have been combined with occupational injuries when showing data by nature of injury or disease. This change has been necessitated by the introduction of a new coding system in Victoria in 2002–03 under which some claims that were previously coded as *Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles* are now coded to *Disorders of the musculoskeletal system and connective*

tissue. This coding change more accurately reflects the repetitive and long term muscle stress that results from these conditions. By combining these categories, a useful time series can still be maintained. The change implemented in Victoria is similar to TOOCS3 which is being progressively implemented in all jurisdictions.

Bodily Location of Injury or Disease

The Bodily location of injury or disease refers to the part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease.

Mechanism of Injury or Disease

The Mechanism of injury or disease is the action, exposure or event which was the direct cause of the most serious injury or disease, that is, how exactly the injury or disease was sustained.

Breakdown Agency

The Breakdown agency refers to the object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in, or most closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong, and which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease.

Agency of Injury and Disease

The Agency of injury or disease refers to the object, substance or circumstance directly involved in inflicting the injury or disease. The coding structure is the same as is used for breakdown agency.

It should be noted that the 'Other' category used in some graphs of type of occurrence does not necessarily represent occurrences which have not been fully and/or appropriately classified, the category can be used to present the sum of remaining categories.

Throughout this publication, the *Type of Occurrence Classification System* categories have been italicised.

9. 'Not stated' data

A number of claims have not been fully coded for the various classifications used in this publication due to insufficient information on the claim form. These claims are always included in the totals and in some cases are included in the "Other and unspecified" categories. Where numbers are significant they have been separately shown so that the reader can take this information into consideration when making comparisons, particularly across time.

10. Confidentiality

Claim numbers in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 5 in adherence to ASCC practice. This ensures that confidential information about employers and employees is protected. For this reason differences may occur between the totals and the sum of the row and column values. By agreement with the jurisdictions fatality numbers are not rounded since this information is a matter of public record.

11. Time series analysis

Comparison of 2006–07 data with previous years should be undertaken with caution. Data shown for 2006–07 are preliminary (denoted by 'p') and are likely to be understated because they are taken from an earlier stage of claims processing than data for earlier years shown in this publication. This issue is addressed by not including the preliminary 2006–07 data in time series comparisons.

In addition, when analysing trends over time, consideration needs to be given to any changes to jurisdiction-specific legislation during the period concerned. Current workers' compensation arrangements can be found in the publication *Comparison of workers' compensation arrangements, Australia & New Zealand* Time series continuity was affected by the move to NDS2 in 2000–01. The nature of the 'break' in series brought about by this change is not the same across jurisdictions due to the different formats used to supply the data. Within this publication, data are only presented from 2000–01 onwards. This is a change from previous publications where some data were presented from 1997–98 onwards. Recent information provided by some jurisdictions relating to data provided in NDS1 years has indicated that the break in series is bigger than previously thought and hence these data should not be compared.

It has been necessary to apply a factor to the data supplied from the Northern Territory from 2000–01 on to account for the fact that the Northern Territory is only able to supply the number of days of time lost rather than actual hours lost which is required to accurately calculate one working week of time lost. Due to the estimation methodology, one working week lost could only be derived as 5 working days lost (as per NDS1 scope). To make the Northern Territory data (NDS1 scope) compatible with that from all other jurisdictions (NDS2 scope), the number of claims supplied by the Northern Territory has been increased by 3.3%.

The Victorian data has also been factored to account for the different excess period operating in that jurisdiction. Details can be found in Explanatory note 13 — Adjustment of Victorian data.

12. Calculation of denominator data used to calculate incidence and frequency rates

Estimates of the number of employees and hours worked for each Australian workers' compensation jurisdiction are supplied annually from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. These estimates are provided by jurisdiction, gender and age separately for industry and occupation. This restricts the way incidence and frequency rates can be presented in this publication. In particular, industry information below the Division level should be treated with caution due to the limitations of the ABS in being to accurately determine specific industries of employment for all employees.

Denominator data are based on the Labour Force Survey, though a number of adjustments are applied to account for differences in scope between the denominators and the workers' compensation coverage for some jurisdictions. The largest adjustment is made for Commonwealth employees who are estimated using the Survey of Employment and Earnings. Other adjustments are to ensure employees working under labour hire arrangements are allocated to the correct industry and employees with more than one job are counted in each job.

13. Adjustment of Victorian data

The use of claims involving one or more weeks of compensation in this publication generally takes account of the different employer excesses that exist in the various schemes. However, under the Victorian workers' compensation scheme the employer is generally liable for the first 10 days of lost wages (equivalent to 2 weeks for full-time workers) by the injured worker plus the first \$531 (in 2006–07) of medical services, unless the employer has elected the Excess Buyout option (more information on the Excess Buyout option can be found at workcover.vic.gov.au. Information on claims paid solely by employers are not always provided to the Victorian Workcover Authority.

In order to compare Victorian claims data with other jurisdictions, adjustments have been made to estimate the full number of claims in Victoria with 1 to 2 weeks off work. To calculate the impact of the Victorian 10 day excess, the percentage of claims of 1 to 2 weeks duration reported for Victoria was compared with the percentage of 1 to 2 weeks claims reported by other Australian jurisdictions (averaged over the 3 year period 2003–04 to 2005–06 to allow adequate claim

development). Based on this comparison, the number of Victorian 1 to 2 weeks claims was increased by a factor so that the percentage of such claims matched the Australian average for such claims. The factor increases the number of Victorian claims by around 20 per cent. The analysis was undertaken at the industry division level to allow for a greater degree of homogeneity in respect of claim duration.

While South Australia has a 10 day excess per employee, information indicates that information on claims for less than 10 days is being sent to the workers' compensation authority and no adjustment is necessary.

14. Standard symbols and abbreviations

The following standard symbols are used in this publication:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCC	Australian Safety and Compensation Council
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
СРМ	Comparative Performance Monitoring
n.a.	not applicable
NDS	National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
р	preliminary data
* *	data is no suitable for publication

15. NOSI database

More detailed claims information can be accessed through the Online Statistics Interactive (NOSI) database, available through the ASCC website ascc.gov.au It should however be noted that some data in the database will be different to that shown in this publication due to the aggregation of some claims information in this publication to present only the areas of most interest. In addition, in some instances claims which were not fully coded have been pro-rated in this publication whereas the NOSI database will show these as 'not stated'. This will generate different incidence and frequency rates between NOSI and this publication.

Appendix 2 — Reliability of the data

The statistical data provided in this publication are subject to two sources of error.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

Non-sampling errors may occur in any statistical collection during data reporting, recording and processing. Non-sampling errors can be a result of one or more of the following:

- deficiencies in data collecting forms
- incorrect recording of answers by the respondent or the processing agency
- inaccurate coding
- non-response or omitted cases
- errors in collection procedures, and
- errors in data entry, editing and processing.

Non-sampling errors may affect both the numerator and denominator data. It is difficult to quantify non-sampling errors.

Attempts to edit data accurately, consistently and comparably are adopted by agencies to minimise non-sampling errors.

SAMPLING ERROR

Sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. The likelihood of difference is measured by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because a sample was selected. Sampling variability is also measured by the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers.

In this publication, the denominator data used in the estimation of incidence and frequency rates are the only data which are subject to sampling error. Incidence and frequency rates based on denominator data with high relative standard errors are indicated in tables by annotation with one asterisk to indicate an RSE of the denominator greater than 25%. If the RSE is greater than 50% the figure is suppressed and replaced with two asterisks. In general, at the aggregate level at which most compendium data are presented, high RSEs are rare. However, readers should note that rates relating to groups with relatively small numbers of employees are likely to have relatively higher RSEs and should therefore be viewed with caution.

Appendix 3 — Contact information for state, territory and Australian Government data

New South Wales

WorkCover New South Wales 13 10 50 workcover.nsw.gov.au

Victoria

Victorian WorkCover Authority 1800 136 089 workcover.vic.gov.au

Queensland

Department of Industrial Relations 1300 369 915 dir.qld.gov.au/workplace

WorkCover Queensland 1300 362 128 workcover.qld.gov.au

Western Australia

WorkSafe Western Australia 1300 307 877 worksafe.wa.gov.au

WorkCover Western Australia 1300 794 744 (inside Western Australia only) workcover.wa.gov.au

South Australia

Safework South Australia 1300 365 255 safework.sa.gov.au

WorkCover Corporation South Australia 131 855 workcover.com

Tasmania

WorkCover Tasmania 1300 366 322 (inside Tasmania only) workcover.tas.gov.au

Workplace Standards Tasmania 1300 366 322 (inside Tasmania only) wst.tas.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory ACT WorkCover (02) 6205 0200 workcover.act.gov.au

Northern Territory

NT WorkSafe Department of Employment, Education and Training 1800 019 115 worksafe.nt.gov.au

Australian Government Comcare Australia 1300 366 979 comcare.gov.au

Inquiries

For further information about data in this publication contact:

Data & Analysis Section Tel: (02) 6121 9115

The Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Loc 530 GPO Box 9879 Canberra ACT 2601 Tel: (02) 6121 5317

More detailed data is available at the ASCC website ascc.gov.au



ascc.gov.au