



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**
WorkSafe

Accommodation and Food Services Industry Profile (ANZSIC 2006)

Work-related lost time injuries and diseases in Western
Australia

2012–13 to 2016–17p

Contents

2018 Data Note.....	2
Disclaimer	2
Overview	3
Sex	6
Occupation	7
Nature of injury.....	8
Mechanism of incident	9
Breakdown agency of injury.....	11
Bodily location.....	12
Age group.....	14
Explanatory notes	15

A number of issues affect the data quality of statistical information based on claims data, as provided by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS). It is important to be aware of these issues when interpreting claims statistics, to ensure that the conclusions drawn from the information take into account known inconsistencies and omissions.

More information about the data can be found in the Explanatory notes section at the end of this report.

2018 Data Note

Due to re-benchmarking of Labour Force estimates based on revisions to the Estimated Resident Population following the 2016 census; denominator data (total number of employees covered by workers' compensation and total number of hours worked) provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in 2018 include data revisions for 2014–15 and 2015–16.

Workers' compensation claims data has been revised back to 2000–01.

The revisions have affected rate calculations and caution is advised for all reported rates. As such, incidence and frequency rates may differ from previous publications in respect to these years and should not be used. Revised data is denoted by 'r'.

Disclaimer

There is no objection to information provided being copied in whole or part, provided there is due acknowledgement of any material quoted from the report. It should be made clear that DMIRS does not endorse any products or services for financial and/or promotional gain or otherwise.

Overview

Table 1: Industry division breakdown: Claims, LTI/Ds and fatalities

Year	Total injury/disease claims (a)	LTI/Ds 1+ days/shifts lost	LTI/Ds 5+ days/shifts lost (b)	LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost	Work-related traumatic injury fatalities (c)
2012-13r	1,699	889	659	215	0
2013-14r	1,531	828	634	189	0
2014-15r	1,386	754	594	189	0
2015-16r	1,391	785	643	221	0
2016-17p	1,200	727	589	218	1
Average	1,441	797	624	206	0

a) Includes all time lost and no time lost claims. Excludes journey, asbestos related and deleted/disallowed claims

b) Consistent with national injury and disease statistics.

c) Fatalities also include self-employed workers, students, unpaid volunteers and bystanders.

In 2012–13, one LTI/D was recorded per 83 employees in the Accommodation and Food Services division; this figure improved to one in every 127 employees during 2016–17p. The total estimated cost per LTI/D during 2012–13 was \$31,799 rising to \$39,440 in 2015–16. Preliminary data for 2016–17 indicate estimated costs are currently the second lowest in the reporting period.

This industry division is one of seven identified as national priorities for prevention activities over the next ten years in the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022.

Table 2: Industry division breakdown: Estimated days lost and cost

Year	Total injury/disease claims (a)		LTI/Ds			
	Total estimated cost	Total est. cost per claim	Total estimated days lost	Average duration	Total estimated cost	Total est. cost per LTI/D
2012-13r	\$32,249,862	\$18,982	60,549	68.1	\$28,268,870	\$31,799
2013-14r	\$33,653,137	\$21,981	61,009	73.7	\$29,269,510	\$35,350
2014-15r	\$30,250,790	\$21,826	58,799	78.0	\$27,315,123	\$36,227
2015-16r	\$35,803,201	\$25,739	63,814	81.3	\$30,960,196	\$39,440
2016-17p	\$27,428,106	\$22,857	54,832	75.4	\$24,568,025	\$33,794
Average	\$31,877,019	\$22,115	59,801	75.1	\$28,076,345	\$35,245

a) Includes all time lost and no time lost claims. Excludes journey, asbestos related and deleted/disallowed claims

The frequency and incidence rate for LTI/Ds in 2016–17p fell by 29.6 and 34.7 per cent respectively since 2012–13. All categories recorded reductions over the same period. Rates in 2016–17p are below the five year average in respect to all LTI/Ds categories except for severe cases where rates for 2016–17p are on a par with the five year division average.

The total number of employees and hours worked (those covered by workers' compensation) increased in the Accommodation and Food Services industry division over the five year reporting period which may have had an effect on frequency and incidence rate reductions. The total number of employees increased 25.2 per cent comparative to 2012–13 to 92,332 in 2016–17. The total number of hours worked increased 16.1 per cent in the same period.

Table 3: Industry division breakdown: Frequency and incidence rates

Year	Total injury/disease claims (a)		LTI/Ds 1+ days/shifts lost		LTI/Ds 5+ days/shifts lost		LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost	
	FR	IR	FR	IR	FR	IR	FR	IR
2012-13r	17.43	1.21	9.12	1.21	6.76	0.89	2.21	0.29
2013-14r	13.85	1.02	7.49	1.02	5.73	0.78	1.71	0.23
2014-15r	13.11	0.90	7.13	0.90	5.62	0.71	1.79	0.23
2015-16r	12.78	0.86	7.21	0.86	5.91	0.71	2.03	0.24
2016-17p	10.60	0.79	6.42	0.79	5.20	0.64	1.93	0.24
Average	13.45	0.94	7.43	0.94	5.82	0.74	1.93	0.24

a) Includes all time lost and no time lost claims. Excludes journey, asbestos related and deleted/disallowed claims

Chart 1: Incidence and frequency rates (LTI/Ds of one or more days/shifts lost)

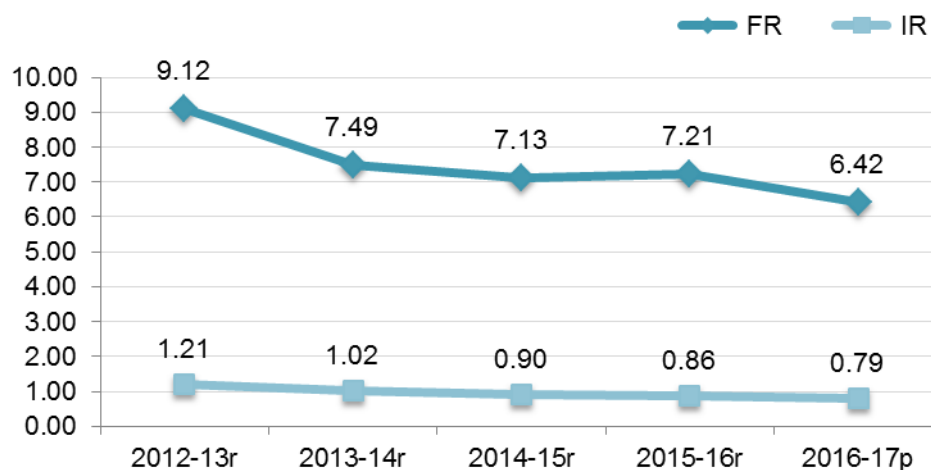


Table 4: Subdivisions within industry division

Subdivision	Year	Total injury/disease claims (a)			LTI/Ds 1+ days/shifts lost						
		Claims	Frequency rate	Incidence rate	LTI/Ds	Frequency rate	Incidence rate	Total est. days lost	Average duration	Total estimated cost LTI/Ds	LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost
Accommodation	2012-13r	388	28.48	4.39	208	15.27	2.35	15,554	74.8	\$7,159,237	50
	2013-14r	322	17.73	2.90	185	10.19	1.66	13,186	71.3	\$5,420,498	40
	2014-15r	302	16.47	2.23	171	9.32	1.26	11,981	70.1	\$5,078,773	34
	2015-16r	266	23.23	2.90	151	13.19	1.65	12,253	81.1	\$5,794,799	48
	2016-17p	220	11.88	1.72	145	7.83	1.13	12,248	84.5	\$5,397,570	48
	Average	300	18.70	2.70	172	10.74	1.55	13,044	75.8	\$5,770,175	44
Food and Beverage Services	2012-13r	1,311	15.63	2.02	681	8.12	1.05	44,995	66.1	\$21,109,633	165
	2013-14r	1,209	13.09	1.74	643	6.96	0.92	47,823	74.4	\$23,849,012	149
	2014-15r	1,084	12.40	1.55	583	6.67	0.83	46,818	80.3	\$22,236,350	155
	2015-16r	1,125	11.55	1.37	634	6.51	0.77	51,561	81.3	\$25,165,398	173
	2016-17p	980	10.35	1.23	582	6.15	0.73	42,584	73.2	\$19,170,454	170
	Average	1,142	12.53	1.56	625	6.85	0.85	46,756	74.9	\$22,306,169	162

a) Includes all time lost and no time lost claims. Excludes journey, asbestos related and deleted/disallowed claims

Both subdivisions recorded a reduction in frequency and incidence rate during the five year reporting period. The Accommodation industry subdivision recorded a reduction of 48.7 per cent in the frequency of LTI/Ds during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13 and a 51.9 per cent reduction in incidence rate. The Food and Beverage Services industry subdivision recorded rate reductions of 24.3 per cent (frequency) and 30.2 per cent (incidence) during the same five year period. LTI/D rates were below the respective five year average in 2016–17p for both industry subdivisions.

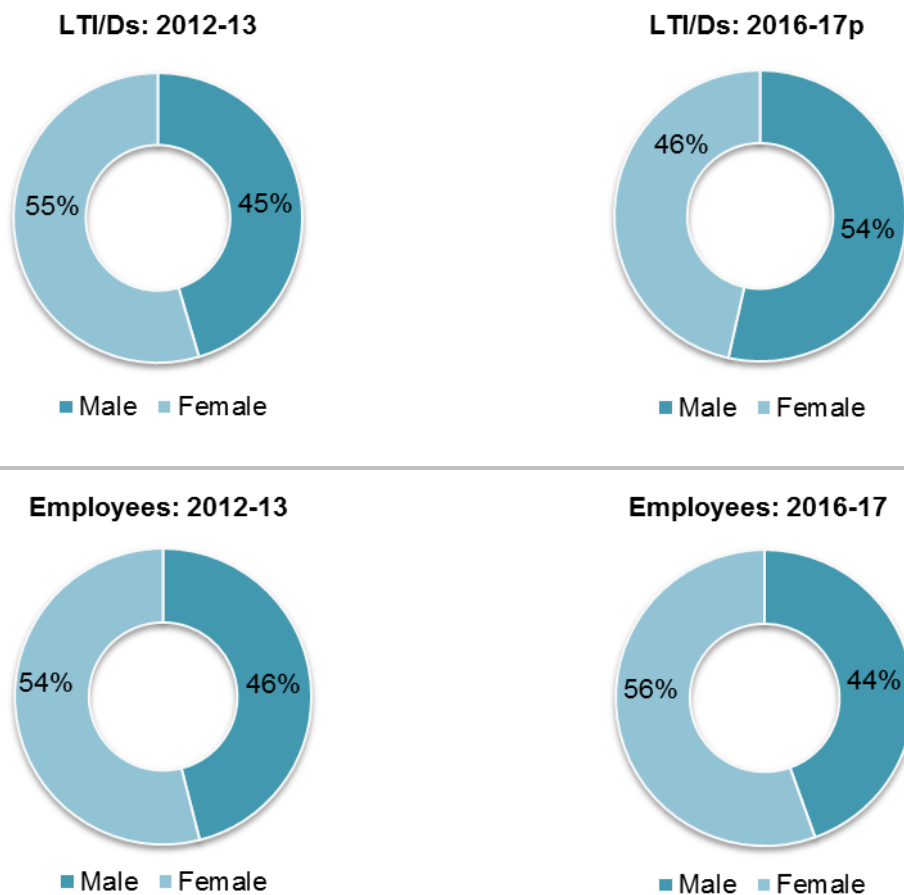
The total number of hours worked and number of employees (those covered by workers' compensation) increased in both industry subdivisions during 2016–17 compared to 2012–13. Employees in the Accommodation subdivision increased 45 per cent to 12,813 and by 35.9 per cent in total hours worked. Employees in the Food and Beverage Services subdivision increased 22.5 per cent to 79,519 and by 12.9 per cent in total hours worked. Such fluctuations may have an impact on incidence and frequency rates, and due consideration should be given to any conclusions drawn.

Sex

The distribution of LTI/Ds (1+ days/shifts lost) between male and female in this industry division has changed over time, with the proportion of male LTI/Ds increasing by nine percentage points in 2016–17p compared to 2012–13. Where female LTI/Ds once clearly accounted for the greater proportion, it is now LTI/Ds in males that account for more than half of all LTI/Ds recorded in the industry division. However, the distribution of employees between male and female in 2012–13 has changed by two percentage points when compared to 2016–17 with the majority of employees being female.

In 2012–13, the proportion of male LTI/Ds is roughly proportionate to male employees. However in 2016–17p, the increase in male LTI/Ds is disproportionate to male employees in the industry. This means that in 2016–17p, there were more male work-related lost time injuries and diseases recorded by a lesser comparative proportion of male employees. The ratio between female LTI/Ds and employees in 2012–13 is roughly proportionate with a slightly higher proportion of LTI/Ds. In 2016–17 the proportion of female employees has increased whereas LTI/Ds have decreased; illustrating a preferred ratio outcome of fewer LTI/Ds compared to employees.

Chart 2: Comparison of LTI/D and employee distribution by sex between 2012–13 and 2016–17p



Occupation

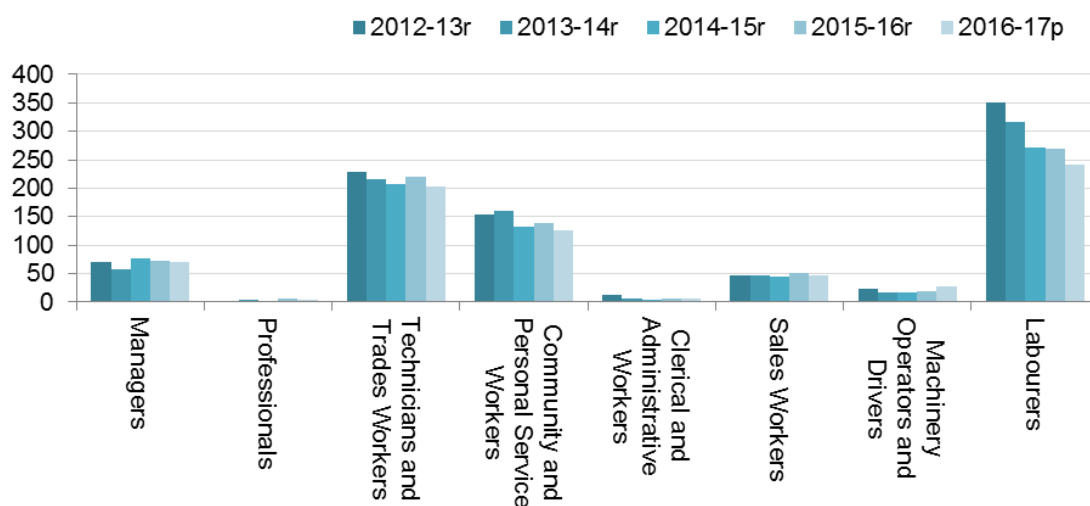
The three most common sub-major occupation groups (in order of magnitude) in WA that experienced a workplace injury or disease of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p are the *Food Trades Workers* group with 961 LTI/Ds, primarily the occupations of *Chef* (-4.3 per cent from 138 in 2012–13 to 132 in 2016–17p) and *Cook* (-27.6 per cent from 58 to 42); the *Food Preparation Assistants* group with 796 LTI/Ds, mainly *Kitchenhands* (-26.9 per cent from 175 to 128 LTI/Ds); and the *Hospitality Workers* group with 683 LTI/Ds, largely *Waiter* (-27.3 per cent from 66 to 48), *Bar Attendants* (-18.6 per cent from 43 to 35), and *Barista* (up 150 per cent from 10 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 25 in 2016–17p).

The chart below represents the number of work-related incidents recorded during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p by major occupation group in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division. Some groups are not represented as clearly in the chart as others.

Four of the eight occupation groups recorded reductions during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13. The greatest reductions were recorded in the major occupation groups of *Clerical and Administrative Workers* (-53.8 per cent from 13 LTI/Ds to six) and *Labourers* (-31.1 per cent from 350 LTI/Ds to 241). LTI/Ds for the *Managers* and *Sales Workers* groups remained constant over the period.

Two major occupation groups recorded an increase in LTI/Ds during the five year reporting period. The *Machinery Operators and Drivers* group recorded a 16.7 per cent increase (from 24 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 28 in 2016–17p) and the *Professionals* group recorded a 100 per cent increase, although LTI/Ds were comparatively lower than other groups.

Chart 3: LTI/Ds by occupation group



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (60+ days/shifts lost from work), table 5 shows the highest recording occupations during the combined five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p. These occupations collectively account for just below half (49 per cent) of the total severe cases in this industry division.

Table 5: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording occupations

Occupations	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Kitchenhand	172	17%
Chef	138	13%
Commercial Cleaner	80	8%
Commercial Housekeeper	58	6%
Waiter	56	5%
Total	504	49%

Nature of injury

The nature of injury/disease is intended to identify the most serious injury or disease sustained by the worker.

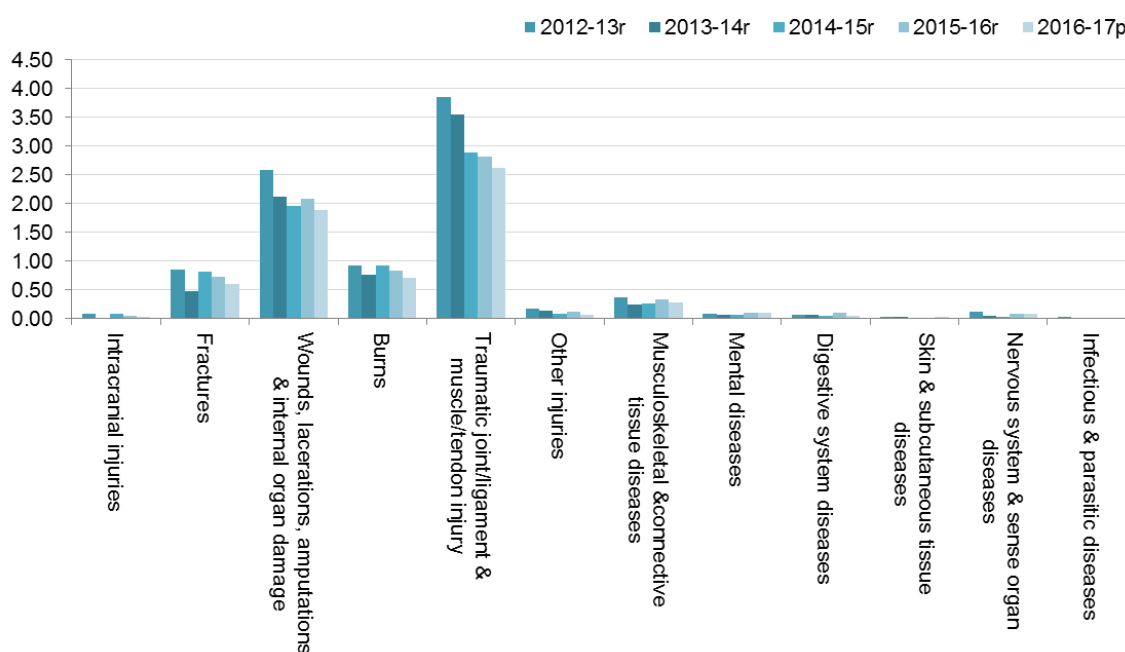
The three most common natures of injury and disease (in order of magnitude) in relation to workplace injuries or diseases of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p continue to be *Soft tissue injuries due to trauma or unknown mechanism with insufficient information to code elsewhere* with 1,035 LTI/Ds (-24 per cent from 255 in 2012–13 to 171 in 2016–17p), *Laceration or open wound not involving traumatic amputation* with 816 LTI/Ds (-19.7 per cent from 188 to 151), and *Trauma to muscles and tendons unspecified* with 422 LTI/Ds (-2.2 per cent from 93 to 91).

The chart below represents frequency rates by nature of injury groups in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division. Very low or zero data was recorded for several groups during the reporting period and have been excluded from the chart.

During the five year period, one group recorded an increase in frequency rate. The *Mental diseases* group recorded an 18.4 per cent increase in the frequency of LTI/Ds (from 0.08 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.10 in 2016–17p).

The *Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury* group — the highest-ranking group by volume of LTI/Ds — recorded a 32.3 per cent reduction in frequency rate from 3.85 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 2.61 in 2016–17p. The largest reduction was recorded in the *Infectious and parasitic diseases* group (-100 per cent from 0.02 to zero) followed by the *intracranial injuries* group (-67.6 per cent from a frequency rate of 0.08 to 0.03) and *Other injuries* group (-59.5 per cent from 0.17 to 0.07).

Chart 4: Frequency rates by nature of injury



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost from work), table 6 shows the highest recording nature of injury subgroups during the combined five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p. These subgroups collectively account for almost three-quarters of total severe cases in this industry division.

Severe cases of *Soft tissue injuries due to trauma or unknown mechanisms* alone account for over a third of the total cases recorded during 2012–13 to 2016–17p.

Table 6: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Soft tissue injuries due to trauma or unknown mechanisms	379	37%
Trauma to muscles and tendons, unspecified	167	16%
Other fractures, not elsewhere classified	109	11%
Laceration or open wound not involving traumatic amputation	61	6%
Trauma to joints and ligaments, unspecified	49	5%
Total	765	74%

Mechanism of incident

The mechanism of incident is intended to identify the overall action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury/disease.

The three most common mechanisms of incident (in order of magnitude) in relation to workplace injuries or diseases of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p continue to be *Falls on the same level* with 826 LTI/Ds (-22.8 per cent from 184 in 2012–13 to 142 in 2016–17p), *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, putting down objects* with 518 LTI/Ds (up one LTI/D from 104 to 105), and *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* with 512 LTI/Ds (-31.3 per cent from 128 to 88).

Other mechanisms of incident to record an increase during the five year period include *Vehicle incident* (up 114.3 per cent from seven LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 15 in 2016–17p), *Being assaulted by a person or persons* (up 75 per cent from eight to 14), *Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment* (up 33.3 per cent from nine to 12), and *Being hit by falling objects* (up 20 per cent from 25 to 30). The *Work related harassment and/or workplace bullying* subgroup also recorded an increase in LTI/Ds during the five year period (from zero to <5). Although data is comparatively lower than the aforementioned subgroups it remains noteworthy.

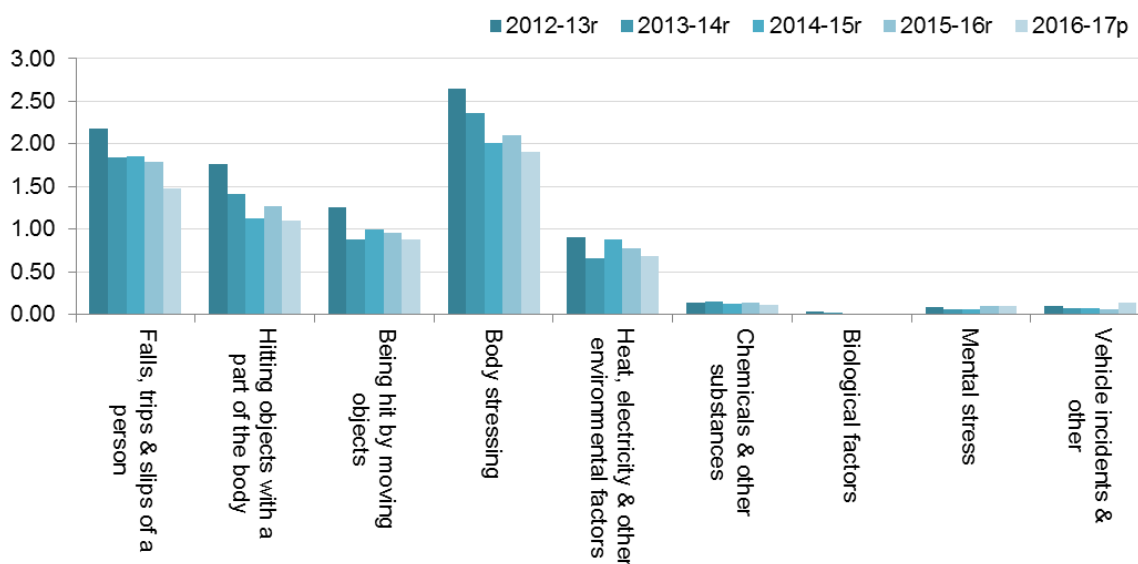
The chart below represents frequency rates of work-related lost time injuries and diseases recorded by mechanism of incident group in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division. Some groups recorded comparatively low data and therefore may not show clearly in the chart. No data was recorded in the *Sound and pressure* group and has been excluded.

Two mechanism groups recorded an increase in frequency rate over the five year period. The *Vehicle incidents and other* group recorded an increase of 37.8 per cent from 0.10 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.14 in 2016–17p and frequency rates in the *Mental stress* group increased 18.4 per cent (from 0.08 to 0.10).

Seven groups recorded reductions in frequency rate ranging from -20 to -71.3 per cent during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13. The *Biological factors* group recorded the greatest reduction with -71.3 per cent (from 0.03 to 0.01) followed by *Hitting objects with a part of the body* group with -37.4 per cent (from 1.76 LTI/Ds per million hours worked to 1.10) and *Falls, trips and slips of a person* with -32.7 per cent (from 2.17 to 1.48).

The *Body stressing* group ranks the highest group in terms of volume of LTI/Ds recording an average of 235 LTI/Ds per year. Frequency rates in this group decreased by 27.9 per cent during the reporting period (from 2.65 to 1.91).

Chart 5: Frequency rates by mechanism of incident



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (60+ days/shifts lost from work), table 7 shows the highest recording mechanism of incident subgroups during the combined five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p. These subgroups collectively account for more than three quarters of total severe cases in this industry division.

Falls on the same level account for a quarter of all the severe injuries in this industry division. Three of the five subgroups fall under the *Body stressing* group. Combined, they account for 47 per cent of the total severe cases recorded during 2012–13 to 2016–17p for this industry division.

Table 7: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Falls on the same level	262	25%
Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down	230	22%
Muscular stress while lifting carrying putting down objects	203	20%
Muscular stress with no objects being handled	57	6%
Falls from a height	40	4%
Total	792	77%

Breakdown agency of injury

The breakdown agency is intended to identify 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/disease.

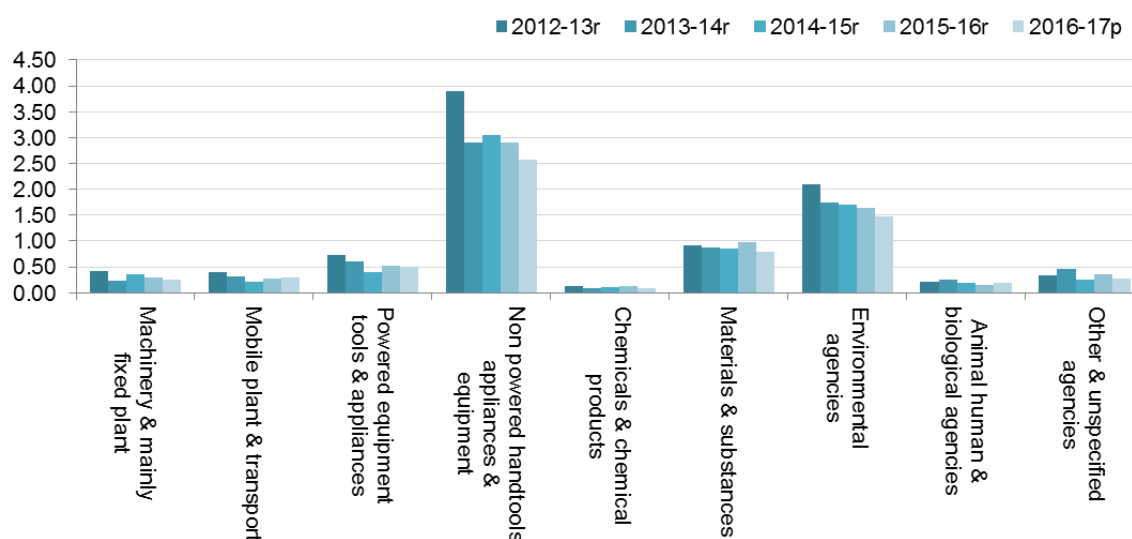
The most common breakdown agencies of injury groups (in order of magnitude) in relation to workplace injuries or diseases of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p are the *Non powered handtools, appliances and equipment* group with 1,631 LTI/Ds, largely the classification of *Knives and cutlery* (-44 per cent from 109 in 2012–13 to 61 in 2016–17p) and *Crates, cartons, boxes, cases, drums, kegs, barrels* (-14.3 per cent from 70 to 60); the *Environmental agencies* group with 924 LTI/Ds, primarily the classification of *Wet, oily, or icy internal traffic and ground surfaces* (-20 per cent from 65 to 52) and *Other internal traffic and ground surfaces* (up one LTI/D from 41 to 42 LTI/Ds); and the *Materials and substances* group with 473 LTI/Ds, mainly *Oil and fat (animal or vegetable)* (up 21.1per cent from 19 to 23) and *Glass* (down one LTI/D from 19 to 18).

The chart below represents frequency rates of work-related lost time injuries and diseases by breakdown agency of injury groups in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division.

All breakdown agency of injury groups recorded a reduction in frequency rate during the five year period. Reductions ranged between -13.9 and 37.6 per cent. The greatest reduction (-37.6 per cent) was recorded in the *Machinery and mainly fixed plant* group (from 0.41 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.26 in 2016–17p) followed by the *Chemicals and chemical products* group (-35.4 per cent from a rate of 0.12 to 0.08).

The *Non powered handtools, appliances and equipment* group is involved in the majority of LTI/Ds in this industry division and recorded a reduction of 34.1 per cent over the reporting period (from 3.90 LTI/Ds per one million workers in 2012–13 to 2.57 in 2016–17p).

Chart 6: Frequency rates by breakdown agency of injury



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost from work), table 8 shows the highest recording breakdown agency of injury subgroups during the combined five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p. These subgroups collectively account for more than a third of total severe cases in this industry division.

Table 8: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Crates, cartons, boxes, cases, drums, kegs, barrels	88	9%
Wet, oily, or icy internal traffic and ground surfaces	80	8%
Other internal traffic and ground surfaces	66	6%
Agency not apparent	54	5%
Other utensils	40	4%
Internal traffic and ground areas with hazardous substances	40	4%
Total	368	36%

Bodily location

The bodily location is intended to identify the part of the body affected by the most serious injury/disease sustained by the worker.

The three parts of the body most affected (in order of magnitude) in relation to workplace injuries or diseases of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p continue to be the *Fingers* with 555 LTI/Ds (-17.7 per cent from 130 in 2012–13 to 107 in 2016–17p), *Lower back* with 398 LTI/Ds (-6.1 per cent from 82 to 77), and *Hand* with 374 (-25.6 per cent from 86 to 64).

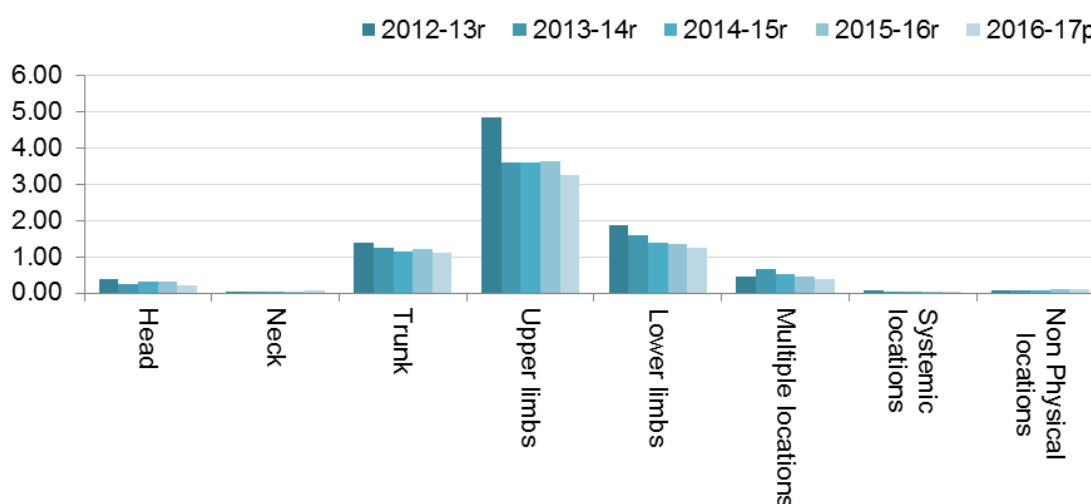
Other areas of the body to record an increase in LTI/Ds were the classifications of *Neck bones, muscles and tendons* (from zero LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 10 in 2016–17p), *Upper and lower limbs* (up 83.3 per cent from six to 11), *Foot* (up 38.1 per cent from 21 to 29), *Psychological system in general* (up 37.5 per cent from eight LTI/Ds to 11), *Back unspecified* (up 23.5 per cent from 17 to 21), and *Forearm* (up 12.5 per cent from 24 to 27 LTI/Ds).

The chart below represents frequency rates by bodily location in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division. The *Unspecified locations* group recorded comparatively low data and has therefore been excluded from the chart.

Six of the nine groups recorded reductions in frequency rate over the five year period. Notably the *Systemic locations* group (-67.7 per cent from 0.08 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.03 in 2016–17p) and the *Head* group (-43.4 per cent from a frequency rate of 0.39 to 0.22). The majority of LTI/Ds are recorded against the *Upper limbs* group which recorded a 32.9 per cent decrease in frequency rate over the reporting period (from 4.84 to 3.25).

Two groups recorded increases in frequency rate over the reporting period: the *Neck* group at 761 per cent from a rate of 0.01 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.09 in 2016–17p, and the *Non Physical locations* group at 18.4 per cent (from 0.08 to 0.10).

Chart 7: Frequency rates by bodily location



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost from work), table 9 shows the highest recording bodily location subgroups during the combined five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p. These subgroups collectively account for more than half of total severe cases in this industry division.

Table 9: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Shoulder	142	14%
Lower back	134	13%
Knee	119	12%
Wrist	97	9%
Upper limb multiple locations	67	6%
Total	559	54%

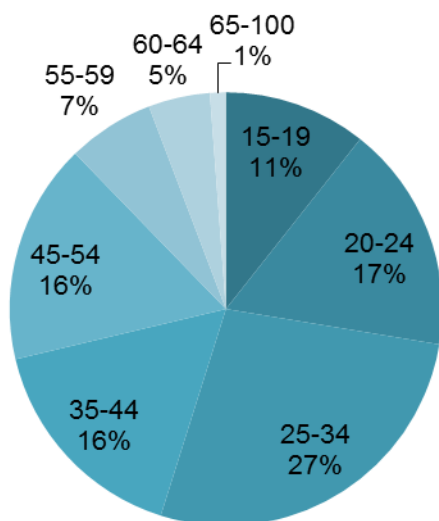
Age group

The chart below represents the of work-related incidents recorded by age group in relation to the Accommodation and Food Services industry division for the total five year period. A total of 14 LTI/Ds was recorded in the combined five year period where the age was unknown or fell outside the standard groups.

Six age groups experienced reductions in LTI/Ds during the reporting period. The greatest reductions were recorded in the 60-64 age group (-39.6 per cent from 53 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 32 in 2016–17p), the 45-54 age group (-31.1 per cent from 161 to 111), and the 15-19 age group (-29.9 per cent from 97 to 68 LTI/Ds).

Two age groups recorded an increase in LTI/Ds during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13: the 55-59 age group (up 17.8 per cent from 45 to 53 LTI/Ds) and the 65-100 age group (up 14.3 per cent from seven LTI/Ds to eight).

Chart 8: Proportion of LTI/Ds by age group: 2012–13 to 2016–17p



Explanatory notes

A number of issues affect the data quality of statistical information based on claims data, as provided by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS). It is important to be aware of these issues when interpreting claims statistics, to ensure that the conclusions drawn from the information take into account known inconsistencies and omissions.

Injury and disease claim data

The data used in this report is derived from workers' compensation claims lodged in accordance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* (the Act). Claims may be lodged by any person who is a 'worker', as defined by section 5 of the Act. This includes working directors who are deemed 'workers' under the Act and have some ownership of the company, as well as employed family members and private household workers (for whom workers' compensation cover is optional). Self-employed persons, Commonwealth Government workers (including defence service personnel), workers covered by Comcare, police officers (except for work-related fatalities), unpaid volunteers and students on work experience are excluded from workers' compensation data.

In addition, the following claim types are excluded from lost time claim data:

- journey claims between home and work;
- asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis;
- duplicated or disallowed claims;
- claims with less than one working day absence from work;
- claims with less than one whole shift absence from work; and
- injuries and diseases that are treated in the health system (i.e. invalid pensions and sickness and unemployed benefits).

Claim data represents information on claims by the financial year in which the claim was lodged with the insurer. This is in contrast to claim payments, which reflect actual payments during a financial year regardless of when the claim was lodged. A claim may typically take a number of months to be finalised (particularly in the case of occupational disease). As claims information is dynamic in nature, reports should be considered as a snapshot in time of the workers' compensation system in Western Australia. Data are subject to revision as claims information matures. A one year time lag exists in relation to workers' compensation claim data.

Due to the high percentage of un-finalised claims concerning payments and days lost, data is subject to revision and likely under reported. This is especially true in relation to the latest snapshot of preliminary data (denoted by "p") as it is extracted at a far earlier stage resulting in a higher proportion of immature claims. Consequently, when looking at changes over time particularly in respect to LTI/Ds 60+ days/shifts lost (severe cases), time lost from work and claim costs, the reader is advised to focus on the older more stable years and treat the preliminary data year as an indication.

Unless otherwise stated in this report, data refers to lost time injuries and diseases (LTI/Ds) in Western Australia where one or more days/shifts are lost from work. The latest snapshot of preliminary data is denoted by "p". To ensure confidentiality of workers' compensation claims information, incidences that total less than five are denoted by the data symbol '<5'.

Caution needs to be exercised when using workers' compensation payments data as a measure of the cost of workplace injury and disease. The costs data collected are only those paid by the workers' compensation authority and will not include payments made by the injured worker which are not reimbursed by the workers' compensation authority.

'Total estimated cost' takes into account estimated and actual claim payments made for un-finalised claims and actual claim payments made for finalised claims in relation to compensation (such as weekly payments, lump sum payments, treatments etc.) and non-compensation payments (such as legal costs, transport etc.).

Claim payment information represents aggregated expenses attributed to the financial year in which a payment is made, regardless of the year in which the relevant claim is lodged.

The total number of days lost takes into account estimated and actual days lost for un-finalised claims and actual days lost for finalised. Estimates of days lost for un-finalised claims are revised as claims progress, therefore, as claims mature, the estimates are more reflective of the finalised days lost.

Legislative amendments may also impact on statistical information. WorkCover WA provide information regarding relevant legislative amendments on their website, at www.workcover.wa.gov.au

Frequency and incidence rates require knowledge of the number of employees and the number of hours worked for the time frame being considered. The employment data used to calculate frequency and incidence rates in department statistical publications is derived from unpublished data estimates produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Classification systems

The industry classification codes used are in accordance with the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The classification codes are based on a hierarchical structure consisting of one digit codes (broadest level) down to four digit codes (finest level). For more information visit www.abs.gov.au

The occupation classifications used are in accordance with the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations 2nd Edition (ASCO)*, for data reported up to and including the year 2008–09, and the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations First Edition (ANZSCO)*, for data reported from the year 2009–10 onward. Both are published by the ABS. For more information visit www.abs.gov.au

The injury and disease classification groupings and descriptions are the standard terms taken from the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission publication: *Type of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS)*. For more information visit www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

Due to the differences in structure and definitions between each version/edition of the three coding classifications a break in time series has occurred. To ensure data integrity direct comparisons should not be made between classification versions.

Work-related traumatic injury fatalities

Work-related traumatic injury fatality information used in this report is derived from information recorded and published by DMIRS and relates to fatalities that result from a physical trauma or poisoning in Western Australia in accordance with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, *Energy Safety Act 2006*, *Electricity Act 1945*, *Gas Standards Act 1972*, *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*, *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*, *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967* and the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969*. In scope are employees, self-employed workers, volunteers and bystanders. Diseases and most disorders that would be seen as 'diseases', such as cancers and heart attacks, are out of scope. Other exclusions include: road traffic accidents, unless there is a clear nexus with work; self-inflicted injuries, Commonwealth Government workers, workers covered by Comcare and defence personnel.

For completeness, DMIRS includes in its statistics those work-related fatalities covered by the *Civil Aviation Act 1988* and *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* under the respective jurisdictions of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB); and where possible, those covered under the *Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990* under the jurisdiction of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The former named agencies are common examples of valid jurisdictional boundaries however, the list is not exhaustive. For more information see [Recording of traumatic work-related fatalities by WorkSafe](#).

Information on data definitions, rate calculations and terms used can be found on the [WA Data Definitions and Calculations](#) and [FAQs](#) pages on our website.