



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

Public Administration and Safety Industry Profile (ANZSIC 2006)

Work-related lost time injuries and diseases in Western
Australia

2012–13 to 2016–17p

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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

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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	1,322	747	570	211	1
2013-14r	1,301	778	597	213	0
2014-15r	1,250	774	591	223	0
2015-16r	1,345	871	675	245	1
2016-17p	1,255	856	670	272	0
Average	1,295	805	621	233	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 82 employees in the Public Administration and Safety industry division, negatively declining to one LTI/D in every 76 employees during 2016–17p. Preliminary data for 2016–17 indicate LTI/Ds in this industry division are above average levels and have been so for the last two years.

Please note that LTI/Ds in respect to the Defence subdivision have been excluded from this report as almost all are covered by the Comcare scheme.

The total estimated cost per LTI/D during 2012–13 was \$41,994 increasing to an estimated cost of \$45,089 per LTI/D in 2015–16. Preliminary data for 2016–17 currently indicate a reduction compared to the previous year and slightly higher when compared to 2012–13 costs.

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	\$33,938,995	\$25,672	54,838	73.4	\$31,369,546	\$41,994
2013-14r	\$37,796,580	\$29,052	58,038	74.6	\$35,140,428	\$45,168
2014-15r	\$38,838,896	\$31,071	55,993	72.3	\$36,686,486	\$47,399
2015-16r	\$41,852,522	\$31,117	64,576	74.1	\$39,272,635	\$45,089
2016-17p	\$38,651,467	\$30,798	61,424	71.8	\$36,368,098	\$42,486
Average	\$38,215,692	\$29,519	58,974	73.2	\$35,767,439	\$44,421

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

Incidence and frequency rates for LTI/Ds increased across the board recording an overall increase of 7.6 and 13.8 per cent respectively during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13. LTI/D rates in 2016–17p are at their highest levels in the five year reporting period. The frequency of serious (5+ days/shifts lost) and severe (60+ days/shifts lost) LTI/Ds increased by 16.7 and 28 per cent respectively over the same reporting period.

The total number of employees (those covered by workers' compensation) increased 6.5 per cent to 65,418 in 2016–17 compared to 2012–13 figures. However employee figures have been in decline since 2013–14 (71,258 employees). The total number of hours worked increased 0.4 per cent in 2016–17 over the same five year period.

The Public Administration and Safety division is one of seven industries identified as a national priority for prevention activities for the duration of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022.

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	12.76	2.15	7.21	1.22	5.50	0.93	2.04	0.34
2013-14r	11.00	1.83	6.58	1.09	5.05	0.84	1.80	0.30
2014-15r	10.68	1.77	6.61	1.10	5.05	0.84	1.91	0.32
2015-16r	12.07	2.00	7.82	1.29	6.06	1.00	2.20	0.36
2016-17p	12.03	1.92	8.21	1.31	6.42	1.02	2.61	0.42
Average	11.67	1.93	7.26	1.20	5.59	0.92	2.10	0.35

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

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

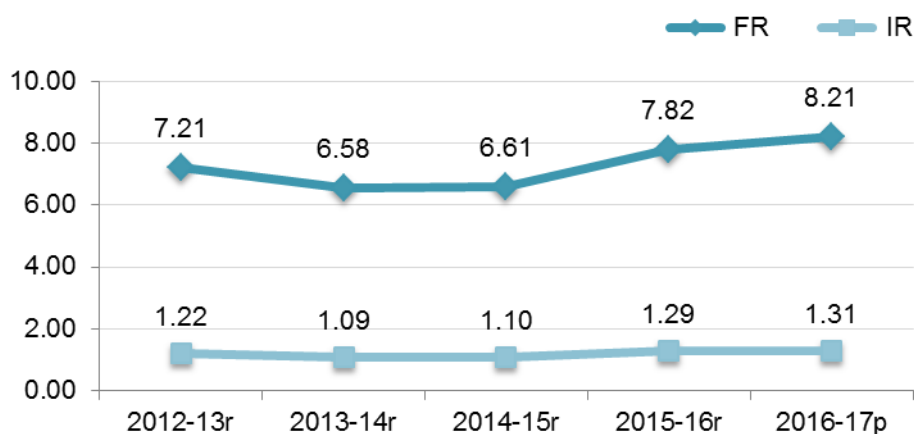


Table 4: Subdivisions within industry division

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
Public Administration	2012-13r	256	3.62	0.59	94	1.33	0.22	6,402	68.1	\$4,549,219	26
	2013-14r	209	2.59	0.42	89	1.10	0.18	5,863	65.9	\$3,699,638	21
	2014-15r	250	2.93	0.48	117	1.37	0.22	5,610	47.9	\$4,450,703	21
	2015-16r	301	3.67	0.60	142	1.73	0.28	7,285	51.3	\$5,224,518	31
	2016-17p	233	2.83	0.46	114	1.39	0.22	4,704	41.3	\$3,923,171	25
	Average	250	3.12	0.51	111	1.39	0.22	5,973	53.7	\$4,369,450	25
Public Order, Safety and Regulatory Services	2012-13r	1,065	33.87	6.12	653	20.77	3.75	48,436	74.2	\$26,820,32	185
	2013-14r	1,089	31.99	5.70	689	20.24	3.61	52,175	75.7	\$31,440,79	192
	2014-15r	1,000	33.97	6.03	657	22.32	3.96	50,383	76.7	\$32,235,78	202
	2015-16r	1,044	36.99	6.40	729	25.83	4.47	57,291	78.6	\$34,048,11	214
	2016-17p	1,022	48.21	7.34	742	35.00	5.33	56,720	76.4	\$32,444,92	247
	Average	1,044	36.16	6.27	694	24.04	4.16	53,001	76.4	\$31,397,98	208

Note: LTI/Ds in respect to the Defence subdivision have been excluded from this report as almost all are covered by the Comcare scheme.

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

The frequency and incidence rate of LTI/Ds in the Public Administration subdivision increased 4.3 and 2.8 per cent respectively over the five year reporting period. The number of LTI/Ds is currently above the subdivision average and has been so since 2014–15. Severe LTI/Ds (60 or more days/shifts lost from work) in this subdivision are currently on a par with the subdivision average.

Rates in Public Order, Safety and Regulatory Services increased by 68.5 per cent (frequency) and 42 per cent (incidence) in 2016–17p compared to 2012–13. Rates in 2015–16 and 2016–17p are above the subdivision and division average. This subdivision also recorded above average levels of severe LTI/Ds (60 or more days/shifts lost from work) in the last two years.

The number of employees covered by worker's compensation and total hours worked increased in the Public Administration subdivision during 2016–17 compared to 2012–13; employees increased 18 per cent to 50,981 and total hours worked increased 16 per cent. In the Public Order, Safety and Regulatory Services subdivision, employees declined 20 per cent to 13,925 (consistent reductions are evident since the high of 19,111 employees in 2013–14) and the total hours worked declined 33 per cent. Such fluctuations may have had an effect on rate results and caution is advised when drawing conclusions.

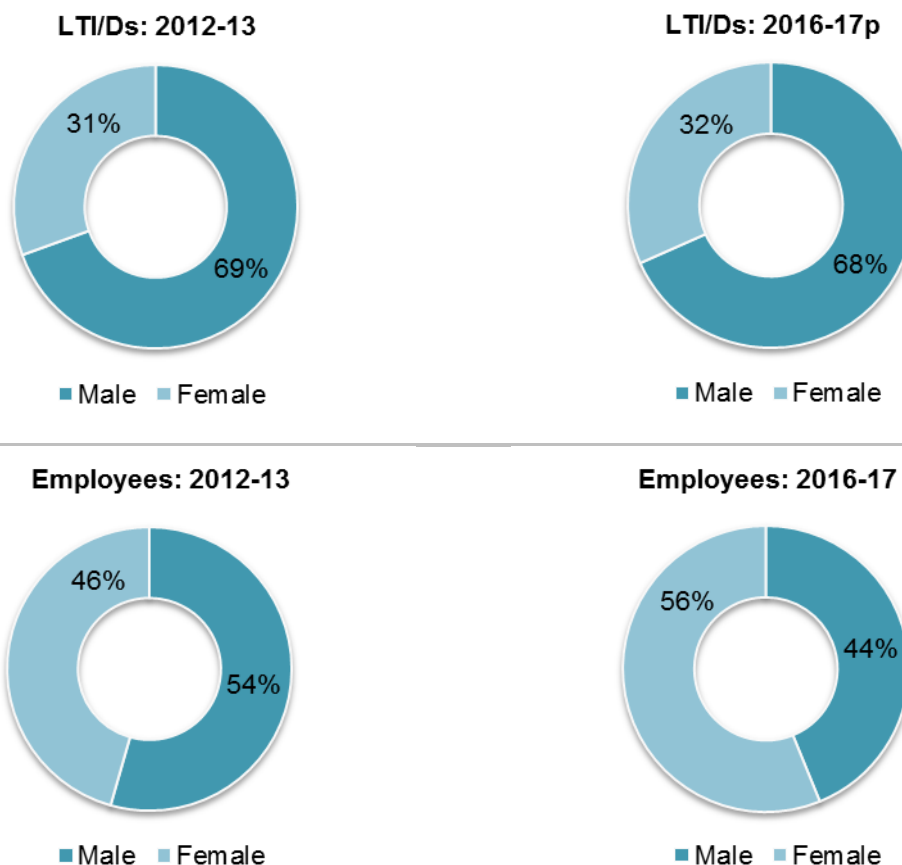
Sex

The distribution of LTI/Ds (1+ days/shifts lost) between male and female in this industry division has changed slightly over time yet remains male dominant. The distribution between the sexes has changed by one percentage point with female LTI/Ds increasing to 32 per cent of LTI/Ds in 2016–17p compared to the 2012–13 period.

The distribution of employees between male and female in 2012–13 is relatively evenly split with a slight male majority. However in 2016–17, a 10 percentage point shift occurred increasing the female representation and decreasing the male representation. This has resulted in a female employee majority.

The distribution of LTI/Ds and employees for males is disproportionate, with a higher proportion of LTI/Ds than employees. This disparity worsens in 2016–17. This may mean that some male employees have recorded multiple LTI/Ds. The opposite is true for females in this industry division with the gap widening positively in 2016–17 compared to 2012–13.

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



Occupation

The three most common sub-major occupation groups (in order of magnitude) in Western Australia 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 predominantly the *Protective Service Workers* group with 2,738 LTI/Ds — more than two-thirds (68 per cent) of the industry division’s LTI/Ds occur in this group — largely attributable to the occupations of *Prison Officer* with 1,634 LTI/Ds (up 16.5 per cent from 315 in 2012–13 to 367 in 2016–17p), *Fire Fighter* with 689 LTI/Ds (up 28.8 per cent from 118 to 152), and *Security Officer* with 298 LTI/Ds (-15.4 per cent from 65 to 55); *Other Clerical and Administrative Workers* group with 233 LTI/Ds, mainly *Inspectors and Regulatory Officers nec¹* with 112 LTI/Ds (up 50 per cent from 14 LTI/Ds to 21) and *Clerical and Administrative Workers nec¹* with 50 LTI/Ds (from <5 to 10); and the *General Clerical Workers* group with 127 LTI/Ds, mainly *General Clerk* with 122 LTI/Ds (-55.9 per cent from 34 to 15).

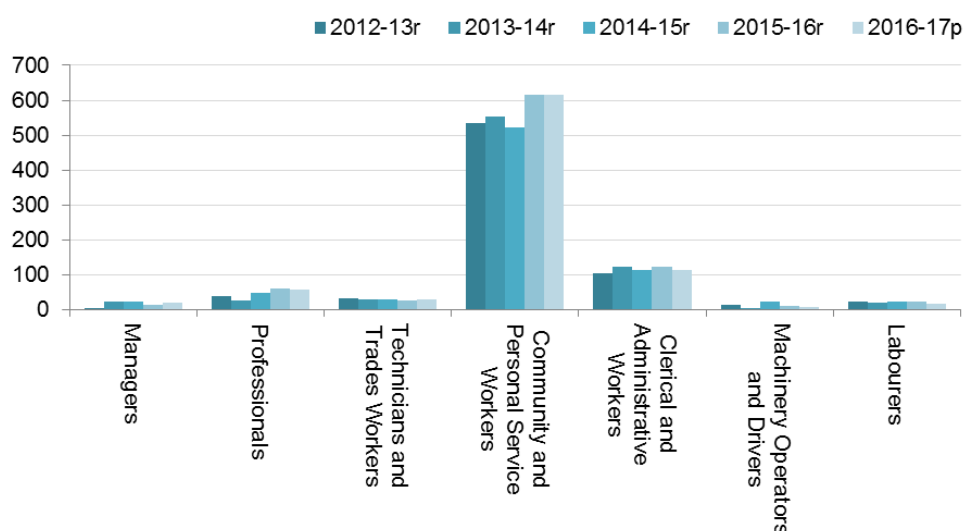
The chart below represents the proportion of work-related incidents recorded by major occupation group in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division for the total five year period. The *Sales Workers* group has been excluded from the chart as data was below the confidentiality threshold and too low to publish.

As you may expect the major occupation group to record the largest proportion of LTI/Ds (more than two thirds or 71 per cent) in this industry division over the five year period is *Community and Personal Service Workers*. LTI/Ds for this group increased 15.3 per cent during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13 (from 535 to 617 LTI/Ds).

Four further major groups recorded increases in LTI/Ds during the reporting period. The largest increase was in the *Managers* group (from <5 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 19 in 2016–17p) followed by *Professionals* at 47.4 per cent (from 38 to 56 LTI/Ds), *Clerical and Administrative Workers* (up 8.7 per cent from 103 to 112), and *Sales Workers* (form zero LTI/Ds to <5).

Three major groups recorded reductions during the reporting period: the *Machinery Operators and Drivers* group -50 per cent (from 12 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to six in 2016–17p), *Labourers* (30.4 per cent from 23 to 16 LTI/Ds), and *Technicians and Trades Workers* (-15.2 per cent from 33 to 28).

Chart 3: LTI/Ds by major occupation group



¹ nec not elsewhere classified

In terms of severe LTI/Ds (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 71 per cent of total severe cases in this industry division.

The occupation of *Prison Officer* singly accounts for 46 per cent of total severe LTI/Ds in this industry division.

Table 5: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording occupations

Occupations	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Prison Officer	534	46%
Security Officer	131	11%
Fire Fighter	112	10%
General Clerk	30	3%
Inspectors and Regulatory Officers nec ¹	20	2%
Total	827	71%

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 are *Soft tissue injuries due to trauma or unknown mechanisms* with 1,472 LTI/Ds (-13.5 per cent from 275 in 2012–13 to 238 in 2016–17p), *Trauma to muscles and tendons, unspecified* with 552 (up 39.6 per cent from 106 LTI/Ds to 148), and *Contusion, bruising and superficial crushing* with 367 (up 41.2 per cent from 68 to 96).

Other notable increases include *Other malignant neoplasms and carcinomas* (up from 0 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to six in 2016–17p), *Occupational overuse syndrome* (from <5 to eight LTI/Ds), *Dislocation* (up 220 per cent from five to 16), and *Poisoning and toxic effects of substances* (up 80 per cent from 10 to 18), *Anxiety/stress disorder* (up 75.6 per cent from 45 to 79), and *Trauma to joints and ligaments, unspecified* (up 18.4 per cent from 38 to 45).

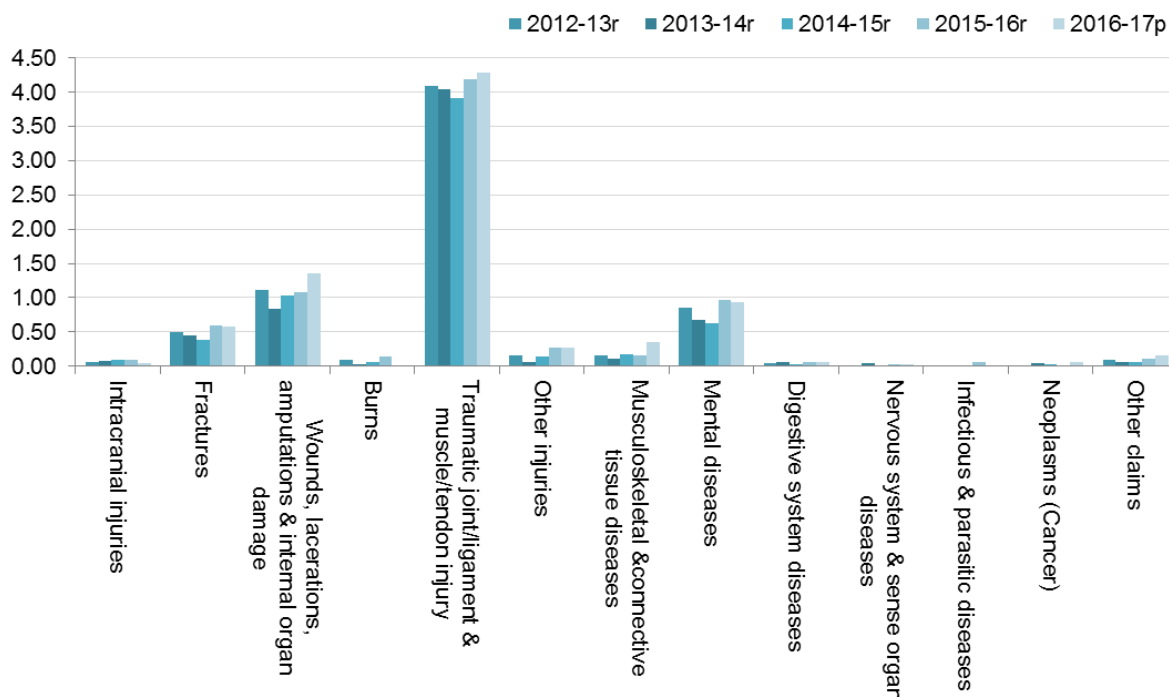
The chart below represents frequency rates by nature of injury groups in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division. Groups that recorded zero data during the period or those where data are comparatively low are excluded from the chart. Some groups may not show as clearly in the chart as others.

During the reporting period 13 groups recorded increases in frequency rate. Notably, *Musculoskeletal and connective tissue diseases* up 116.1 per cent (from 0.16 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.35 in 2016–17p), *Fractures* up 16.8 per cent (from 0.49 to 0.58), *Wounds, lacerations, amputations and internal organ damage* up 20.7 per cent (from 1.12 to 1.35), *Mental diseases* up 9.5 per cent (from 0.85 to 0.93), and *Neoplasms (Cancer)* up from a frequency rate of zero to 0.06).

Notable reductions in frequency rate during the five year period were recorded in *Intracranial injuries* (-17.3 per cent from 0.06 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.05 in 2016–17p), *Burns* (-80.1 per cent from 0.10 to 0.02), *Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases* (-100 per cent from 0.02 to zero), and *Circulatory system diseases* (-0.7 per cent).

The greatest proportion of injuries and diseases are attributable to the *Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury* group. Frequency rates increased by 4.7 per cent during the reporting period from 4.09 in 2012–13 to 4.29 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2016–17p.

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 more than a third of the total cases recorded during the five year period.

Table 6: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Soft tissue injuries due to trauma or unknown mechanisms	393	34%
Trauma to muscles and tendons, unspecified	154	13%
Anxiety/stress disorder	150	13%
Other fractures, not elsewhere classified	85	7%
Contusion, bruising and superficial crushing	83	7%
Total	865	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 are *Falls on the same level* with 793 LTI/Ds (up 28.3 per cent from 138 in 2012–13 to 177 in 2016–17p), *Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down* with 773 (-7.2 per cent from 153 to 142), and *Being assaulted by a person or persons* with 375 (up 4.2 per cent from 71 to 74 LTI/Ds).

Notable increases also occurred for the subgroups of *Repetitive movement low muscle loading* (from <5 LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 11 in 2016–17p), *Single contact with chemical or substance* (up 185.7 per cent from seven to 20), *Exposure to a traumatic event* (up 83.3 per cent from 12 to 22), *Contact with or exposure to biological factors of human origin* (up 80 per cent from 10 LTI/Ds to 18), *Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, putting down objects* (up 66 per cent from 50 LTI/Ds to 83), *Muscular stress with no objects being handled* (up 40 per cent from 45 to 63), *Hitting stationary objects* (up 31.6 per cent from 19 to 25), and *Work related harassment and/or workplace bullying* (up 30.8 per cent from 13 to 17).

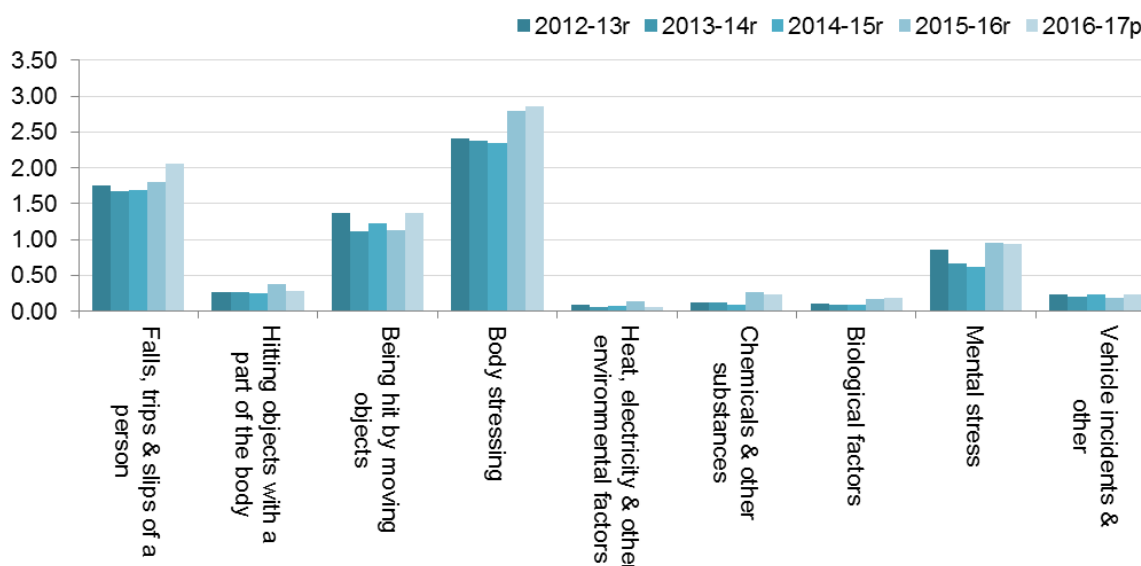
The chart below represents frequency rates of work-related lost time injuries and diseases recorded by mechanism of incident group in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division. Groups that recorded zero data during the period or those where data are extremely low are excluded from the chart. Some groups may not show clearly in the chart.

Six mechanism groups recorded increases in frequency rate over the five year period. Notably, *Chemicals and other substances* (up 91 per cent from 0.13 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.24 in 2016–17p), *Biological factors* (up 71.5 per cent from a frequency rate of 0.11 to 0.18), *Falls, trips and slips of a person* (up 17.4 per cent from 1.75 to 2.05), and *Mental stress* (up 9.5 per cent from 0.85 to 0.93).

Four groups recorded reductions in frequency rate during the reporting period. The *Heat, electricity and other environmental factors* group recorded a 44.8 per cent reduction (from a frequency rate of 0.09 in 2012–13 to 0.05 in 2016–17p) and the *Being hit by moving objects, Sound and pressure, and Vehicle incidents and other* groups each recorded a 0.7 per cent reduction.

Body stressing is the primary mechanism of work-related LTI/Ds in this subdivision; frequency rates increased 18.8 per cent during the period from 2.41 in 2012–13 to 2.87 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2016–17p.

Chart 5: Frequency rates by mechanism of incident



In terms of severe LTI/Ds (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 almost two-thirds of total severe cases in this industry division.

Table 7: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying, or putting down	232	20%
Falls on the same level	217	19%
Being assaulted by a person or persons	124	11%
Work pressure	98	8%
Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, putting down objects	80	7%
Total	751	65%

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.

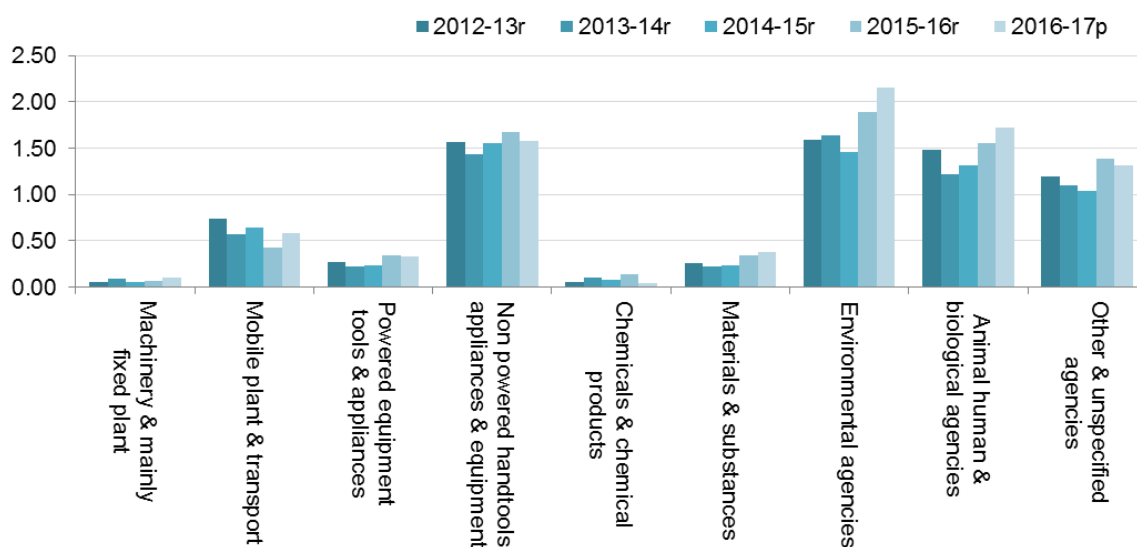
The three most common breakdown agency of injury groups (in order of magnitude) in relation to workplace injuries or diseases of one or more days/shifts lost during the five year period from 2012–13 to 2016–17p are *Environmental agencies* group with 965 LTI/Ds, largely the subgroups of *Traffic and ground surfaces other* with 297 LTI/Ds (up 32 per cent from 50 in 2012–13 to 66 in 2016–17p) and *Other internal traffic and ground surfaces* with 172 LTI/Ds (up 37.5 per cent from 32 to 44); *Non powered handtools, appliances and equipment* group with 865 LTI/Ds, particularly the subgroups of *Doors and windows* with 153 LTI/Ds (up one LTI/D from 26 to 27) and *Sporting equipment* with 124 LTI/Ds (up 24 per cent from 25 to 31); and the *Animal, human and biological agencies* group with 804 LTI/Ds, primarily *Other person* with 710 LTI/Ds (up 25.9 per cent from 135 to 170).

The chart below represents frequency rates of work-related lost time injuries and diseases by breakdown agency groups in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division.

Reductions in frequency rates are evident in two groups during the reporting period. The *Mobile plant and transport* group recorded a 21.3 per cent reduction (from 0.74 in 2012–13 to 0.58 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2016–17p) and the *Chemicals and chemical products* group (-20.6 per cent from a rate of 0.05 to 0.04).

The largest increases in frequency rate were recorded in the groups of *Machinery and mainly fixed plant* (up 82 per cent from 0.06 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.11 in 2016–17p), *Materials and substances* (up 43.4 per cent from 0.26 to 0.37), and *Environmental agencies* (up 35.4 per cent from 1.59 to 2.16).

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 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 8: Severe LTI/Ds: Highest recording subgroups

Subgroup	5yr total	% of 5yr industry total
Other person	231	20%
Non-physical agencies	229	20%
Traffic and ground surfaces other	68	6%
Agency not apparent	52	4%
Steps and stairways	47	4%
Total	627	54%

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 are the *Knee* with 518 LTI/Ds (up 46.8 per cent from 79 in 2012–13 to 116 in 2016–17p), *Psychological system in general* with 445 LTI/Ds (up 10.2 per cent from 88 to 97), and *Lower back* with 373 LTI/Ds (down three LTI/Ds from 74 to 71).

During the reporting period, noteworthy increases in LTI/Ds included the subgroups of *Other and multiple systemic conditions* (from zero LTI/Ds in 2012–13 to 13 in 2016–17p), *Lung trachea and bronchus* (from <5 LTI/Ds to nine), *Elbow* (up 137.5 per cent from eight to 19), *Foot* (up 90 per cent from 10 to 19), *Wrist* (up 85.7 per cent from 14 to 26), *Thumb* (up 85.7 per cent from seven to 13), *Abdominal muscles and tendons* (up 54.5 per cent from 11 to 17), *Lower leg* (up 46.7 per cent from 15 to 22), and *Shoulder* (up 14.1 per cent from 64 LTI/Ds to 73).

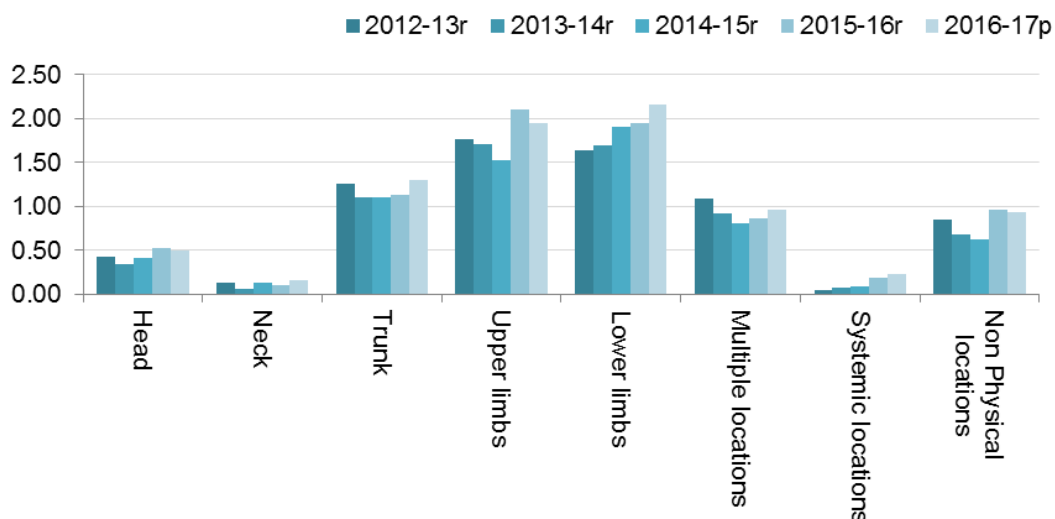
The chart below represents frequency rates by bodily location group in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division. Comparatively low data was recorded for the *Unspecified locations* group and has been excluded from the chart.

Falls in frequency rates are visible in three groups. The *Neck* group recorded the largest fall at 39.8 per cent, from 0.15 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.09 in 2016–17p, followed by the *Trunk* (-16.2 per cent from 1.33 to 1.11), and *Lower limbs* (-2.5 per cent from a frequency rate of 1.96 to 1.91).

The *Multiple locations* group recorded the only reduction in frequency rate during the reporting period (-12.1 per cent), from 1.09 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.96 in 2016–17p.

The highest increase in frequency rate during the five year period was in the *Systemic locations* group at 376.6 per cent (from 0.05 LTI/Ds per million hours worked in 2012–13 to 0.23 in 2016–17p). This was followed by the *Lower limbs* group at 32 per cent (from 1.64 to 2.17) and the *Neck* group at 29.9 per cent (from 0.13 to 0.16).

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
Psychological system in general	230	20%
Knee	185	16%
Shoulder	147	13%
Lower back	58	5%
Ankle	48	4%
Total	668	57%

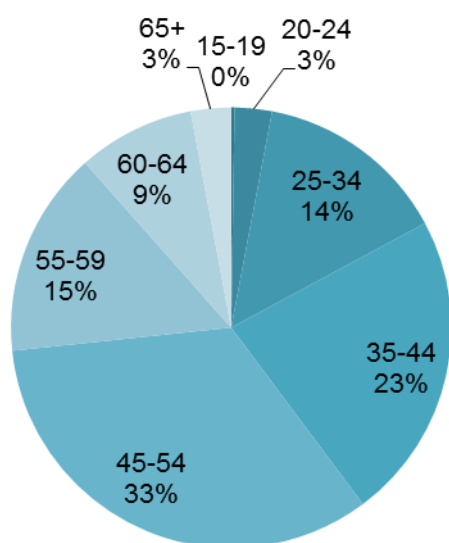
Age group

The chart below represents the proportion of work-related incidents recorded by age group in relation to the Public Administration and Safety industry division for the total five year period.

The 45-54 year old age group continues to record the largest proportion of LTI/Ds in this industry division over the five year period. LTI/Ds for this age group increased 15.4 per cent during 2016–17p compared to 2012–13 (from 234 LTI/Ds to 270). The highest increase was recorded by the 60-64 age group at 97.8 per cent (from 45 to 89 LTI/Ds). This was followed by the 55-59 age group at 34.5 per cent (from 110 to 148).

Three age groups experienced a reduction in LTI/Ds during the reporting period: 15-19 year olds (-66.7 per cent), however, data is too low to publish, the 25-34 age group (-4.0 per cent from 126 LTI/Ds to 121), and the 35-44 age group (-3.8 per cent from 186 to 179).

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.