

Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2013

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Key facts

Provisional data shows that in 2013:

- 182,900 claims were made to ACC for a work-related injury, up from 180,000 provisional claims in 2012.
- The overall rate of injury claims was 92 claims for every 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).
- The fishing and forestry industries had the highest number of entitlement (ie more serious) claims as a proportion of all claims within the industry, both with 18 percent of claims involving entitlement payments.
- Males had the most claims for fatal work-related injuries, with 95 percent of fatal claims.
- Workers aged 15–24 years and workers aged 65 years and over had the highest claim rates across all age groups.
- Pacific peoples had a higher claim rate (104 claims per 1,000 FTEs) than Māori (93), European (88), and Asian (52) workers.
- Just under one-quarter of agriculture and fishery workers made a work-related claim in 2013, the highest incidence by occupation.

Trends from final data for 2002–12 show that:

- The incidence rate has fallen each year since 2002 (from 129 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002 to 92 in 2012).
- Since 2002, the incidence rate has been consistently higher for self-employed workers than for employees. In 2012, the incidence rate was 85 claims per 1,000 FTEs for employees compared with 147 for self-employed people.
- Agriculture and fishery workers have consistently had the highest claim rate since 2002.

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Commentary

- 182,900 work-related injury claims in 2013
- Claim rates and numbers higher for males
- Rates and number of claims by ethnicity show Pacific peoples have highest rate, but lowest number
- Claim rates within occupation and industry highest for agriculture, forestry, fishery
- Number of claims by occupation and industry highest for trades workers and construction industry
- Regional claims show highest rates in parts of upper North Island
- Trends for overall claim rates and numbers are falling
- Trends in claims by sex and age falling for both males and females, and 65+ age group
- Trend in claim rates by occupation shows consistently high rates for agriculture and fishery workers
- Trends in claims by employment status show rates higher for self-employed, but gap narrowing
- Regional claim trends show falls in Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, and Canterbury

The figures presented in this information release are for claims accepted by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) for work-related injuries. The data in this information release are not a definitive count of all work-related injuries, because not all result in a claim to ACC. The statistics are based on one claim per person for each injury event.

This release covers information about claims for work-related injuries, as well as information about claims involving entitlement payments, and claims for fatal injuries. It includes provisional statistics for 2013 and final statistics for 2012.

These figures include claims due to occupational disease and work-related gradual process (for example hearing loss).

This commentary focuses on the provisional statistics for 2013, with trends in work-related injuries for 2002–12 towards the end. We report on the following:

- incidence rates (measured as the number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)), which indicate the risk associated with different groups
- total number of claims, which provides an indication of total size of the problem
- entitlement claims, which reflects the number of more serious injuries
- number of fatal claims.

182,900 work-related injury claims in 2013

Provisionally, there were 182,900 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in the 2013 calendar year. This is up from 180,000 provisional claims in 2012. The provisional incidence rate for 2013 was 92 work-related injury claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs). The 182,900 claims were made by 161,300 people.

Of all work-related claims, 11 percent (19,500) resulted in entitlement payments. This includes payments for weekly compensation and rehabilitation necessary for returning to independence.

Claim rates and numbers higher for males

Males make the most claims

In 2013, 73 percent of all work-related injury claims (133,900 claims) were for males. The incidence rate for males (119 claims per 1,000 FTEs) was more than twice as high as for females (56 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Entitlement claims are also mostly made by men

Males made significantly more entitlement claims (15,200 claims) than females did (4,300 claims). More than three-quarters (78 percent) of entitlement claims made in 2013 were for males. The rate for males (14 claims per 1,000 FTEs) was almost triple that for females (5 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Almost all fatal claims made are for males

Sixty-three claims have been made for fatal work-related injuries in 2013. Of these claims, 95 percent were for males.

Workers aged 65 years and over accounted for 48 percent of all fatal claims.

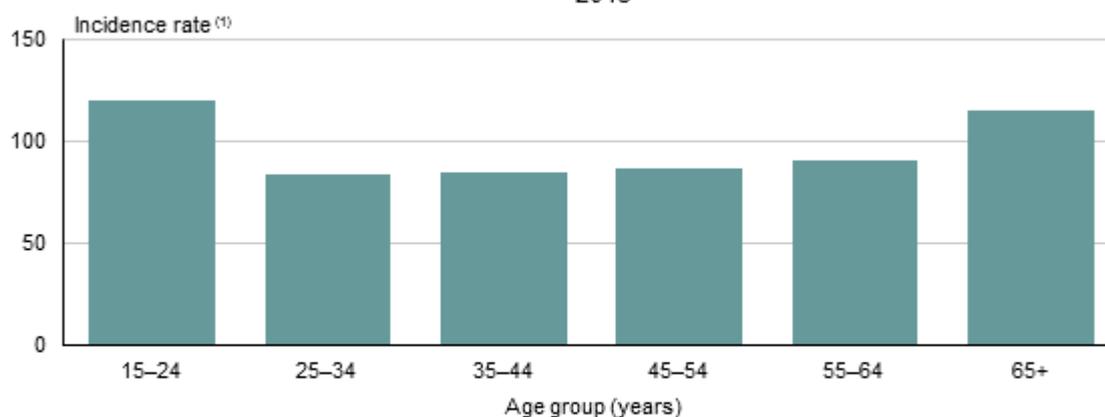
Note that fatalities are under-represented by claims, as many fatalities do not result in a fatal injury claim to ACC. Fatal claim numbers have been randomly rounded to 3.

Younger and older workers have highest claim rates, and claim numbers consistent with age of population

Workers aged 15–24 years made 121 claims per 1,000 FTEs, the highest rate among the age groups. Workers aged 65 years and older had the second-highest rate (115 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Incidence rate of work-related injury claims

By age group
2013



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Note: Figures are provisional.

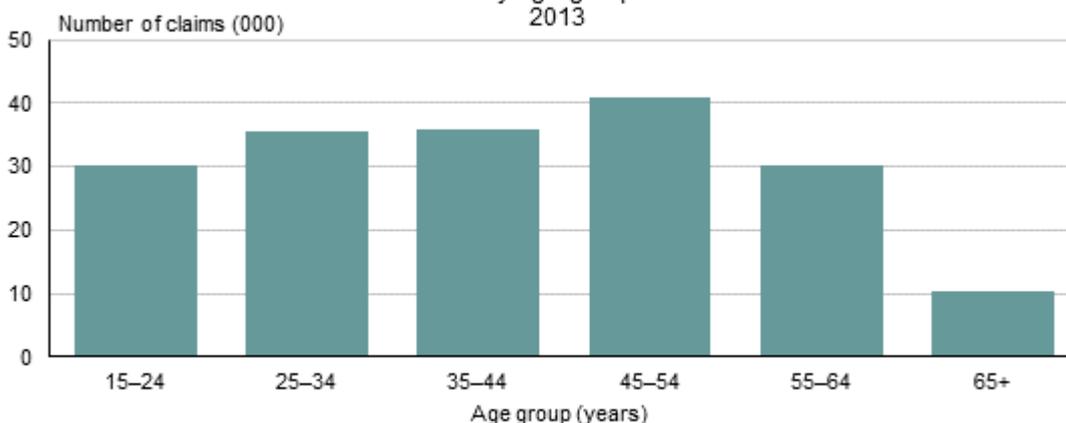
Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Number of claims highest for workers aged 45-54

In 2013, workers aged 45-54 years made 40,800 claims (22 percent of all claims). This age group was followed by workers aged 35-44, who made 35,900 claims (20 percent of all claims). This is consistent with the demographic structure of the population.

Work-related injury claims

By age group
2013



Note: Figures are provisional.

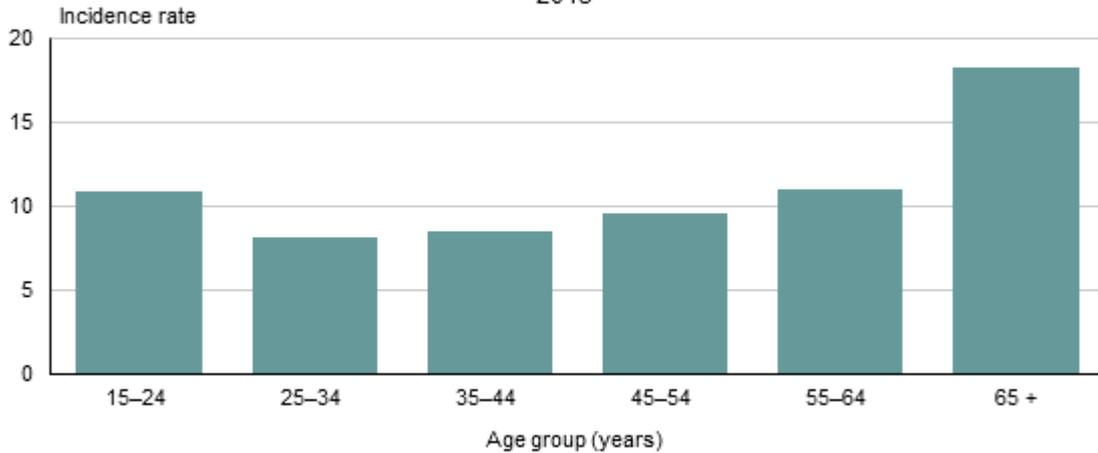
Source: Accident Compensation Corporation

Entitlement claim rates highest for workers aged 65+

Workers aged 65+ had the highest incidence rate of entitlement claims (18 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs). Workers aged 15-24 and 55-64 had the next-highest rates, with both age groups making 11 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Incidence rate of claims involving entitlement payment

By age group
2013



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

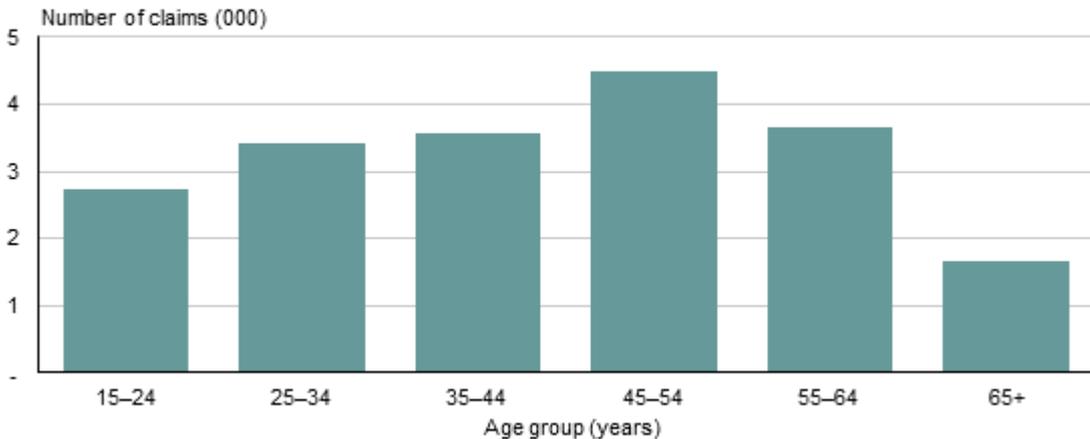
Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Number of entitlement claims highest for workers aged 45–54

Similar to the pattern for all work-related claims and consistent with the age profile of the population, in 2013, workers aged 45–54 made more entitlement claims than any other age group did, with 4,500 claims. This was 23 percent of all entitlement claims. Workers aged 65+ made the fewest entitlement claims, with 1,700 claims (8 percent).

Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries

By age group
2013



Note: Figures are provisional.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation

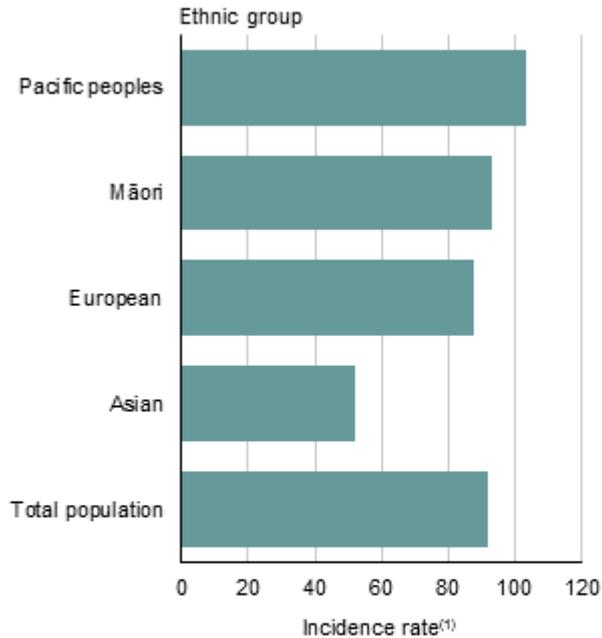
Rates and numbers of claims by ethnicity show Pacific peoples have highest rate, but lowest number

The rates for work-related injury claims in 2013 for the four major ethnic groups were:

- Pacific peoples – 104 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Māori – 93 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- European – 88 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Asian – 52 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Incidence rate of work-related injury claims

By ethnic group
2013



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

2. Total also includes 'Other' ethnicity.

Note: Figures are provisional.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Work-related claims by selected ethnic groups, 2013 (provisional)		
Ethnicity	Number of claims	Percentage of all work-related claims
European	131,400	72
Māori	21,100	12
Asian	12,900	7
Pacific peoples	9,500	5

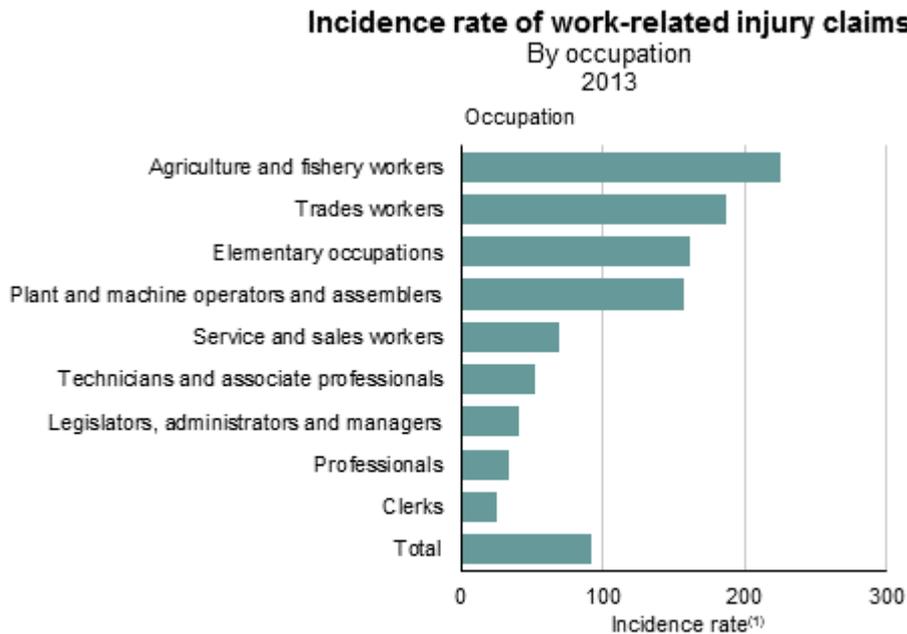
Note: Percentages will not sum to 100 because 'other' and 'not specified' categories are not included here. [Ethnic group reporting](#) has more information on totals for ethnicity.
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Claim rates within occupation and industry highest for agriculture, forestry, fishery

Claim rates highest for agriculture and fishery workers occupation group

'Occupation' describes the injured person's job at the time of their injury.

Agriculture (including forestry) and fishery workers had the highest incidence rate, with 226 work-related injury claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2013. The next-highest rates were for trades workers (for example, builders), who had 187 claims per 1,000 FTEs, and workers in elementary occupations (for example, cleaners or refuse collectors), who had 161 claims per 1,000 FTEs. The lowest rates were for clerks and professionals, who had 25 and 33 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Note: Figures are provisional.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Entitlement claim rates highest for agriculture and fishery workers

In 2013, agriculture and fishery workers had the highest incidence rate, at 26 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. Plant and machine operators and assemblers (24 entitlement claims per 1000 FTEs) had the second-highest rate.

Claim rates highest in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry

'Industry' describes the main type of activity carried out by the organisation that the injured person worked for.

'Industry' is different from 'occupation'. For example, a plumber could be a trades worker in the construction industry.

The industry of the workplace where the injury occurred was not specified in 17,900 claims (10 percent of the total). Therefore, interpret the figures for claims by industry with caution.

In 2013, the highest incidence rates were for the following industries:

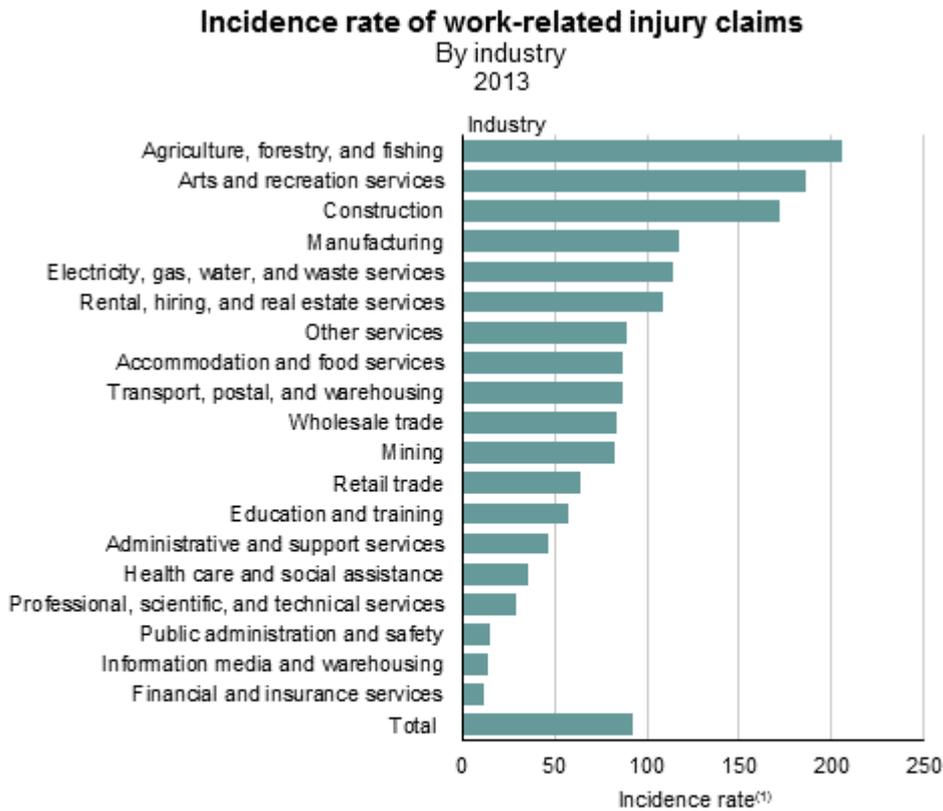
- agriculture, forestry, and fishing – 206 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- arts and recreation services – 186 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- construction – 172 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Note that arts and recreation services include professional sporting activities and adventure sports.

Entitlement claim rates highest in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry

The industries with the highest rates of work-related entitlement claims in 2013 were:

- agriculture, forestry, and fishing (27 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- construction (21 claims)
- arts and recreation services (19 claims).



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Note: Figures are provisional.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Number of claims by occupation and industry highest for trades workers and construction industry

Trades workers make highest number of claims

The occupation groups with the most work-related injury claims in 2013 were:

- trades workers – 35,500 claims
- agriculture and fishery workers – 31,200 claims
- plant and machine operators and assemblers – 25,200 claims.

Claims by males outnumbered those by females in most occupation groups, with the exception of:

- service and sales workers (64 percent of claims for this occupation were made by females)
- professionals (56 percent)
- clerks (53 percent).

A high proportion of the workers in the three occupation groups with the highest number of work-related injury claims were males. Males made:

- 98 percent of all claims by trades workers
- 91 percent of all claims by plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 79 percent of all claims by agriculture and fishery workers.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers make most entitlement claims

The occupation groups that made the most entitlement claims in 2013 were:

- plant and machine operators and assemblers (3,800 claims)
- trades workers (3,700)
- agriculture and fishery workers (3,500 claims).

Combined, these groups accounted for 56 percent of all entitlement claims.

Construction industry has highest number of claims

Work-related claims in 2013 were highest for workers in the following industries:

- construction – 28,900 claims
- manufacturing – 27,500 claims
- agriculture, forestry, and fishing – 25,300 claims.

For the first time, in this release, we have separated the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry into three categories for the number of claims. Agriculture alone forms most of the claims in this industry, with 23,500 claims. Forestry and fishing account for just 1,800 of the total claims, with 1,300 and 500 claims, respectively.

Fishing and mining had the fewest work-related claims (500 each). This is likely because of the small size of these industries.

Number of entitlement claims highest in fishing and forestry industries

In 2013, the fishing and forestry industries had the highest number of entitlement claims as a proportion of all claims within the industry, both with 18 percent of claims involving entitlement payments. Overall, 11 percent of all claims involved entitlement payments.

Claim rate almost twice as high for self-employed

'Employment status' indicates whether a worker was self-employed or an employee at the time of their injury.

Employees accounted for 84 percent of all work-related claims in 2013.

The incidence rate was almost twice as high for self-employed workers (163 claims per 1,000 FTEs) as for employees (85 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Regional claims show highest rates in parts of upper North Island

Northland region has highest claim rate

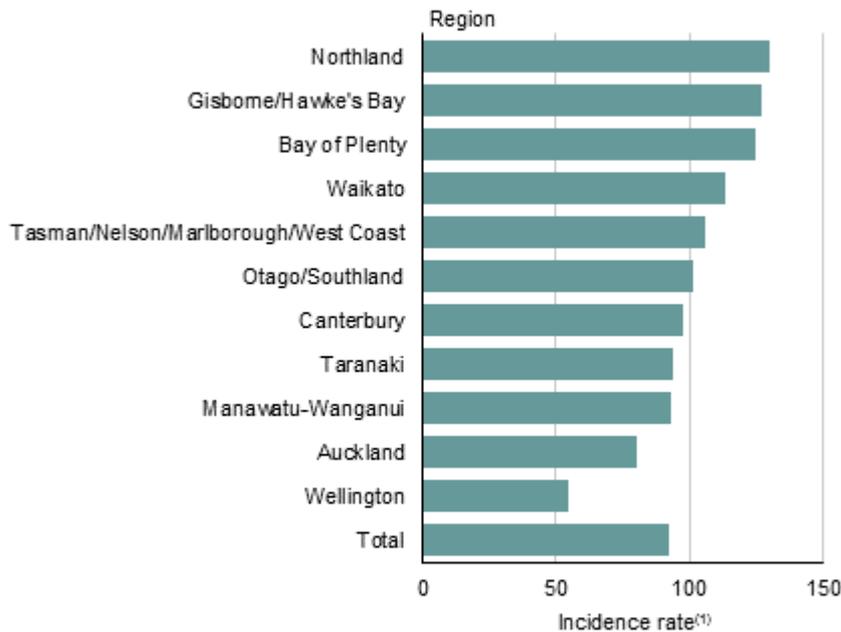
The regions with the highest incidence rates in 2013 were:

- Northland – 130 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Gisborne/Hawke's Bay – 127 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Bay of Plenty – 125 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Wellington had the lowest rate, with 55 claims per 1,000 FTEs. Auckland had the second-lowest, at 80.

Incidence rate of work-related injury claims

By region
2013



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Auckland region had most claims, reflecting its size

In 2013, the Auckland region had 53,200 claims (29 percent of all claims). This reflects the size of the region's population. Canterbury (28,200 claims) and Waikato (19,000 claims) were second and third, reflecting the high number of workers in these regions. However, Wellington, the third-largest region, was fifth (13,300 claims), reflecting the different composition of occupation and industry.

Northland region has highest entitlement claim rate

In 2013, the highest rates of entitlement claims occurred in:

- Northland – 14 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Waikato – 13 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Bay of Plenty – 13 claims per 1,000 FTEs
- Gisborne/Hawke's Bay – 13 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

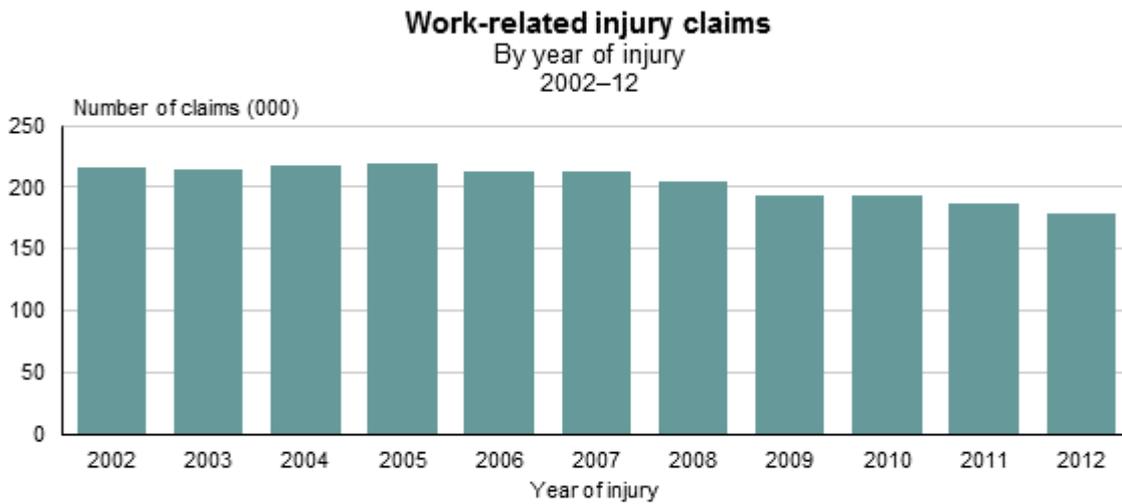
The Wellington region again had the lowest rate, with five entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Number of entitlement claims highest in Auckland

Auckland had the highest number of entitlement claims (4,900), accounting for 25 percent of the total. However, this region had the second-lowest incidence rate, at seven per 1,000 FTEs.

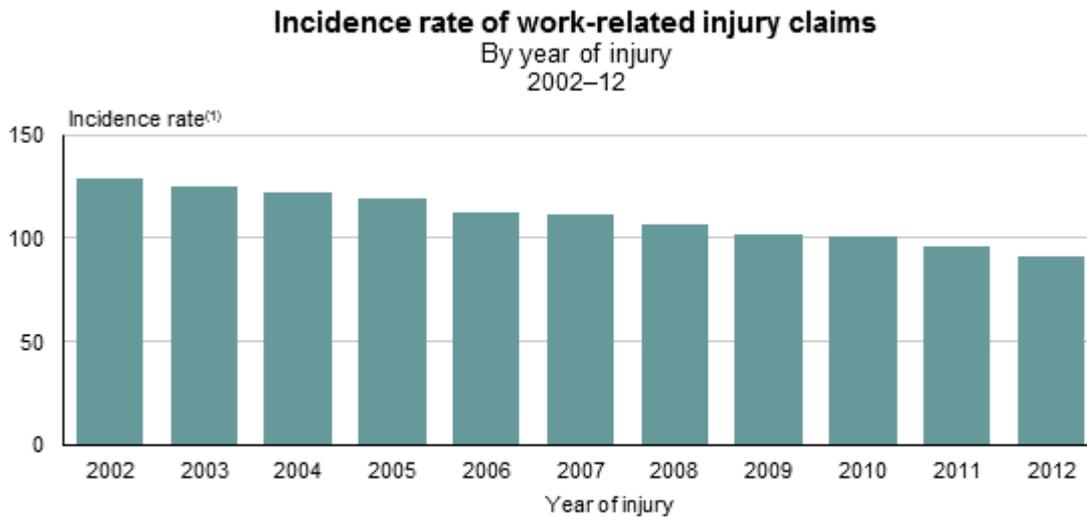
Trends for overall claim rates and numbers are falling

The number of work-related claims has been declining steadily since 2007.



Source: Accident Compensation Corporation

The incidence rate has decreased each year since 2002, from 129 work-related claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002, down to 92 in 2012.



1. Number of claims per 1,000 fulltime equivalent employees.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation

Trends in claims by sex and age falling for both males and females, and 65+ age group

Males consistently dominate trends

Males accounted for about three-quarters of all work-related claims each year between 2002 and 2012.

Each year, males also had a higher incidence rate than females. The rate for males decreased from 170 claims per 1,000 FTEs (in 2002) to 119 (in 2012). The rate for females also decreased over this period, from 73 claims per 1,000 FTEs (in 2002) to 56 (in 2012).

Trend in claim rate falls for 65+ age group

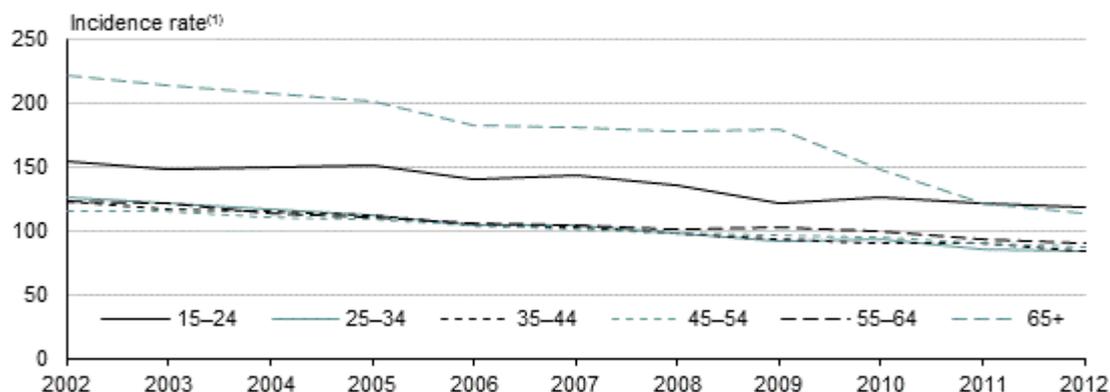
The 65+ age group consistently had the highest claim rate from 2002 until 2011, when the rate fell to the same level as that for 15–24-year-olds. This is due to a significant drop in the number of claims accepted for occupational disease and gradual process injury, in particular claims for hearing loss, among the 65+ age group.

In 2012, the 15–24 age group had the highest claim rate, at 118 work-related claims per 1,000 FTEs.

The incidence rate of claims has generally declined for almost all age groups since 2002.

The drop in the 65+ age group is most noticeable throughout this trend.

Incidence rate of work-related injury claims
By age group
2002–12



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

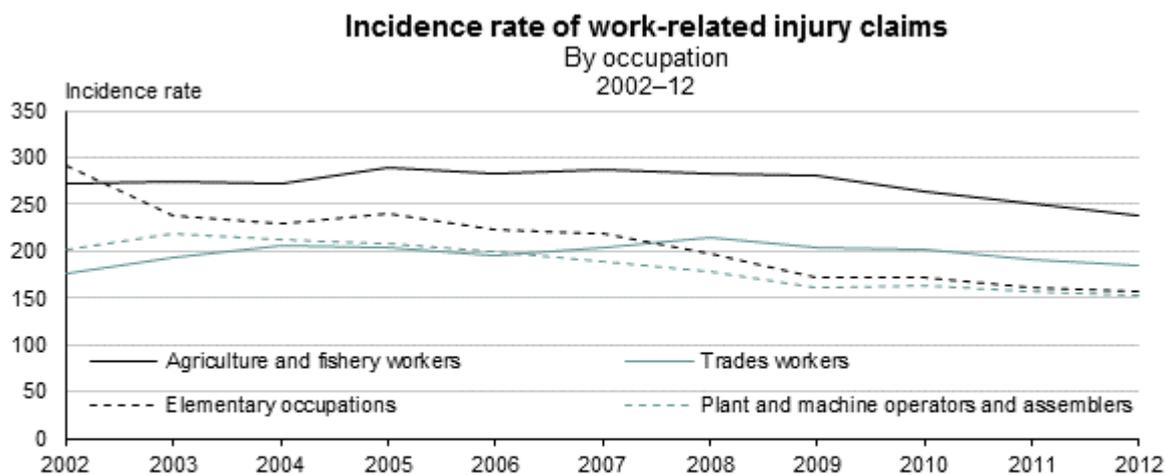
Trend in number of claims by age in line with ageing population

Between 2002 and 2007, workers aged 35–44 made the most claims each year. In 2008, workers aged 45–54 became the age group making the most claims. This trend has continued through to 2012, with 40,000 claims made in the 45–54 year age group, compared with 35,900 in the 35–44 year age group. This trend is in line with demographic changes and reflects the ageing population.



Trend in claim rates by occupation shows consistently high rates for agriculture and fishery workers

Between 2002 and 2012, agriculture and fishery workers had the highest claim rate. This rate has consistently been just under 300 claims per 1,000 FTEs. The rate dropped in 2011 and continued to drop in 2012, to 238 claims per 1,000 FTEs. However, the rate was still the highest out of all occupations.



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation; Statistics New Zealand

Trends in claims by employment status shows rate higher for self-employed, but gap narrowing

Trend in claim rate consistently higher for self-employed

The incidence rate for self-employed workers has been around double that for employed workers each year since 2002. In 2012, the incidence rate was 85 claims per 1,000 FTEs for employees, compared with 147 for self-employed people. This is the smallest difference between the two groups since 2002.

Trend in number of claims dominated by employees

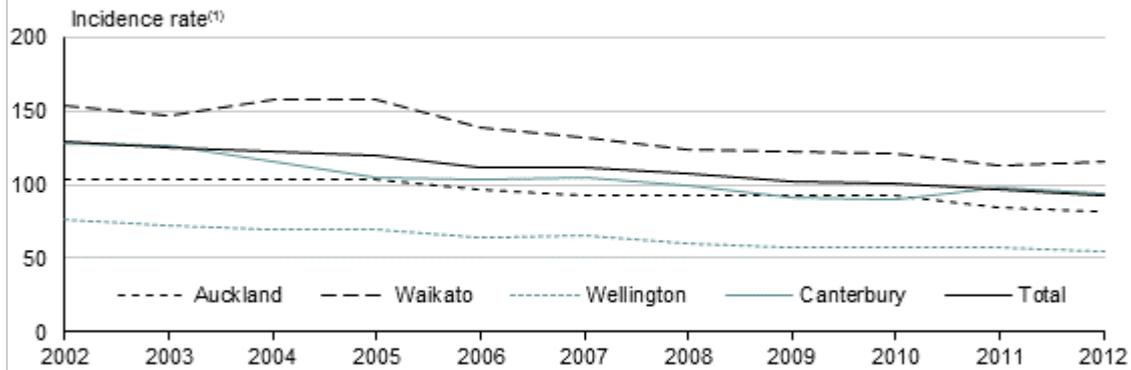
Employees consistently accounted for more than three-quarters (varies between 77 to 84 percent) of all work-related claims each year between 2002 and 2012. However, the increase to 84 percent in 2012 from 81 percent in 2011 has been a noticeable increase, as the trend usually only increases or decreases by one percentage point each year. In 2012, employees made 148,700 claims, compared with 29,100 for self-employed workers.

Regional claim trends show falls in Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, and Canterbury

Trends in claim rates fall for largest regions

Incidence rates have fallen for workers in the four largest regions (Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, and Canterbury) since 2002. The incidence rate in the Canterbury region increased in 2011 because of the Canterbury earthquake of 22 February 2011, going against the general downward trend. The incidence rate for Canterbury dropped from 98 in 2011 to 94 in 2012.

Incidence rate of work-related injury claims
By selected geographic regions
2002–12



1. Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees.

Source: Accident Compensation Corporation, Statistics New Zealand

Trend shows decreasing claims in largest regions

Claims by workers in the four largest regions generally declined between 2002 and 2012. After the 22 February 2011 earthquake, the number of claims in Canterbury rose to 27,500. In 2012 this number decreased to 26,300.

For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims

Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims measures claims accepted by ACC for work-related injuries. The statistics are based on one claim for each person for each injury event – see [Data quality](#) for more information. The information covers all claims for work-related injuries, including claims involving entitlement payments (where compensation and support for returning to independence may have been required), and claims for fatal injuries. The data in this information release is not a definitive count of all work-related injuries. This is because not all work-related injuries result in a claim to ACC.

This data is used for monitoring the number and incidence of work-related injuries in New Zealand, and informing policy on reducing work-related injuries.

Definition of terms

Accident: the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (section 25) defines ‘accident’ as:

- a specific event, or a series of events, that involves the application of a force (including gravity) or resistance external to the human body, or involves the sudden movement of the body to avoid such a force or resistance external to the human body, or a twisting movement of the body
- the inhalation or oral ingestion of any solid, liquid, gas, or foreign object on a specific occasion, which kind of occurrence does not include the inhalation or ingestion of a virus, bacterium, protozoa, or fungi unless that inhalation or ingestion is the result of the criminal act of a person other than the injured person
- a burn, or exposure to radiation or rays of any kind, on a specific occasion, which kind of occurrence does not include a burn or exposure caused by exposure to the elements
- the absorption of any chemical through the skin
- any exposure to the elements, or to extremes of temperature or environment.

Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC): this agency administers New Zealand’s accident compensation scheme, which provides no-fault personal injury cover for all New Zealand citizens and residents, and visitors to New Zealand. The ACC scheme is governed by the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

An ACC claim is made when treatment for an injury is first sought from any recognised health professional, such as a doctor, a physiotherapist, or a dentist. Claims that are accepted by the ACC are divided into different categories for funding purposes. Only those claims in the work-related category are included in this release. See [Work-related claims](#) for more information.

Age: specifies the injured person’s age in years, as at the date of injury. This age may differ from the worker’s age when the claim is lodged, the age when compensation is received, or the age at death (if the worker dies of the injury).

Body site of injury: the part or parts of the body injured in the accident.

Claim: a lodgement by a person or care provider requesting that ACC assists through paying for, or helping to pay for, medical costs, weekly compensation, and/or rehabilitation costs associated with an injury. A person can have more than one ACC claim.

Claims by employees working for employers who are part of ACC's Accredited Employer Partnership Programme are only included if they conform to the same data quality standard as normal claims managed by ACC. A significant proportion of accredited employer claims submitted by employers or their appointed administrators is not included in this release due to data quality issues.

All claims registered by ACC are categorised according to the type of services the claimant goes on to receive. Two main categories of claim are used in this release (see [Claims for medical fees only](#), and [Claims involving entitlement payments](#) for details).

Claims for fatal work-related injuries: claims made to ACC for deaths that resulted from workplace injuries (for example, a fatal work-related fall) or occupational diseases resulting in death, such as asbestos-related illnesses.

Claims for medical fees only: claims for which ACC has paid a health professional for medical treatment or service. Approximately 90 percent of all ACC claims are in this category and often involve only one or two visits to a health professional.

A claim is deemed to be a 'medical fee only' claim if the person has only received medical or dental treatment, or counselling.

Claims involving entitlement payments: claims that have progressed past the medical fees only claim category. Compensation and support for returning to independence may have been required. Under the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (section 69), entitlements are:

- rehabilitation, comprising treatment, social rehabilitation, and vocational rehabilitation
- weekly compensation
- lump sum compensation for permanent impairment
- funeral grants, survivors' grants, weekly compensation for the spouse or partner, children and other dependants of a deceased claimant, and childcare payments.

Diagnosis of injury/illness/disease: the type of injury, illness, or disease sustained by the worker, and recorded on the ACC claim by the treatment provider. This release reports the primary injury diagnosis as held in the ACC claims database.

Employment status: indicates whether a worker is self-employed (that is, working for himself/herself), or is an employee (working for another person or entity).

The employment status figures cover all those 'working for wages and salaries'. The self-employed figures include those classified as 'self-employed and not employing others', but exclude those 'working without pay or profit in a family business'. While this differs from the definition in the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), it corresponds closely to definitions used for workplace accident insurance.

Entitlement payments: see [Claims involving entitlement payments](#).

Ethnic group: a self-identified variable that measures cultural affiliation and is distinct from terms such as race, ancestry, nationality, or citizenship. An individual may identify their ethnicity according to a number of characteristics including:

- a common name
- one or more elements of common culture which may include religion, customs, or language

- unique community of interests, feelings, and actions
- a shared sense of common origins
- a common geographic origin.

An individual may identify as a member of more than one ethnic group.

Fatal injury claims: see [Claims for fatal work-related injuries](#).

Fatal injury payments: if someone dies as a result of an injury, ACC may help cover financial needs. Payments may include funeral grants, survivor grants, childcare payments, and weekly compensation for wages. These payments are paid to the deceased's next of kin.

Final figures: for the purposes of this release claims are included in the tables under the calendar year in which the injury occurred. For final figures, claims are only included if they had been accepted by 8 August 2014.

Full-time equivalent employees (FTEs): a standard measure used in labour force statistics, for example, to calculate average weekly earnings. FTEs are calculated as the number of full-time employees plus half the number of part-time employees.

We use FTEs instead of 'total number of employees' for calculating the incidence rate, as part-time employees have a lower exposure to injury because they work fewer hours than full-time employees. This allows the denominator of the incidence rate to be expressed as units that each have approximately the same risk of work-related injury.

The FTE numbers used in this release are annual averages derived from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), and are used to calculate injury incidence rates by age, sex, ethnic group, employment status, industry, occupation, and region where the injury occurred.

Geographic region: the part of New Zealand or the world where the injury event took place. The physical address or place of the injury event is classified according to the territorial authority (TA) in which it occurred. TAs are grouped into regions of New Zealand. There is an additional group of codes for injuries that occurred outside New Zealand.

The regions reported in this release mostly align with regional council boundaries, but in a few cases TAs straddle these council boundaries. We have assigned these TAs to the region containing the greatest proportion of their population. The TAs involved are Waitomo, Taupo, Rotorua, Stratford, Rangitikei, Tararua, and Waitaki districts.

Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS): Statistics NZ's quarterly HLFS produces statistics on the employed, unemployed, and those not in the labour force.

The target population of the HLFS is the civilian, usually resident, non-institutionalised population aged 15 years and over. It therefore excludes:

- people in non-private dwellings such as hospitals and prisons
- visitors from overseas who are staying for less than 12 months
- the armed forces
- overseas diplomats in New Zealand
- people living on offshore islands (except Waiheke Island).

The HLFS provides the FTE figures we use in this release to calculate incidence rates (see [Full-time equivalent employees](#) for more detail).

Impairment: ACC defines impairment as ‘any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical structure or function.’ Level of impairment is used by ACC to determine eligibility for, and amount of, lump sum and independence allowance entitlements (see [Permanent impairment assessment](#) for more details).

Incidence rate: the number of work-related claims per 1,000 FTEs.

The incidence rate is used to compare levels of injury and fatal injury claims between groups with different numbers of workers. This rate is used by the International Labour Organization to enable comparisons of work-related injuries between countries.

Independence allowance: a quarterly payment made to compensate a claimant for any long-term impairment they have as a result of an injury. The injured person must have a permanent impairment assessment resulting in an impairment level of 10 percent or more to be eligible for the independence allowance (see [Permanent impairment assessment](#) for more details).

Industry: the type of activity carried out by the organisation, enterprise, business, or unit of economic activity that the injured person worked in.

Injury: the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (section 26), defines a ‘personal injury’ as:

- death
- a physical injury, or mental injury caused by a physical injury
- mental injury caused by a criminal act of another person
- work-related mental injury that is suffered by a person through witnessing a sudden traumatic event at work (added from 1 October 2008)
- damage to dentures or prostheses that replace a part of the human body.

The Act 2001 also covers work-related gradual process, disease, or infection (see [Work-related gradual process, disease, or infection](#) for more details).

Loss of earnings compensation: formerly termed ‘weekly compensation payments’, these are payments ACC makes to claimants who cannot work because of injury. The payment is based on 80 percent of weekly income before the injury occurred and compensates for loss of earnings (or potential earnings), until a certain point determined by ACC. A spouse, partner, or dependant of a deceased claimant may be entitled to loss of earnings compensation.

Lump sum compensation: a one-off non-taxable payment to compensate for permanent impairment resulting from an injury. This payment covers injuries that occurred on or after 1 April 2002. The injured person must have a permanent impairment assessment resulting in an impairment rating of 10 percent or more to be eligible for a lump sum payment (see [Permanent impairment assessment](#) for more details).

Mental injury: the Accident Compensation Act 2001 defines ‘mental injury’ as a clinically significant behavioural, cognitive, or psychological dysfunction.

Occupation: all occupations in this release relate to the injured person’s occupation at the time of injury.

Permanent impairment assessment: assessments for lump sum and independence allowance payments are fully funded by ACC and completed by an independent medical practitioner. They determine the amount of compensation, based on the level of permanent impairment sustained from the injury.

Level of impairment is assessed using the American Medical Association Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, fourth edition. It is an estimate of the proportion of the 'activities of daily living', such as eating or personal hygiene, that an average person is unable to do as a result of their injury. The level of permanent impairment must be 10 percent or more to be eligible for an entitlement. Examples at different impairment levels include:

- 0 to 5 percent impairment: common lower back injury (not eligible for an entitlement)
- 10 percent impairment: severe damage to the ligaments of the knee (would be eligible for an entitlement)
- 32 percent impairment: amputation of the leg below the knee (would be eligible for an entitlement)
- 80 percent or more impairment: paraplegia (would be eligible for maximum entitlement).

Provisional figures: all claims are included under the calendar year when the injury occurred. For 2013, provisional figures are as at 8 August 2014. Final figures for 2013 will be released in 2015.

Rehabilitation: ACC defines rehabilitation to be a process of active change and support to help a person with an injury to regain his or her health and independence, and therefore the ability to participate in his or her usual activities, as far as is practicable.

Rehabilitation payments: these are payments made to claimants to support their rehabilitation. These payments include compensation for treatment, counselling, travel and accommodation for treatment, childcare, attendant care, equipment, and home modifications.

Scene of injury: describes the location where the injury occurred. It includes homes, farms, and roads or streets.

Weekly compensation payments: see [Loss of earnings compensation](#).

Work-related claims: claims made to ACC for work-related injuries. The injury can be either due to an accident or have happened by gradual process related to the person's work (see [Work-related gradual process, disease, or infection](#)).

The Accident Compensation Act 2001 (section 28(1)) defines a work-related injury as an injury which happens when the worker is:

- at his or her place of employment, including when the place moves (as it does for a taxi driver), or is a place to or through which the worker moves
- having a rest or meal break at work
- travelling to or from work in transport provided by the employer, or
- travelling to or from work in order to receive treatment for a work-related injury.

These are identified in the claims dataset using the following criteria:

- any claim in the ACC work account, or
- any claim in the ACC motor-vehicle account with a work-related flag set to 'Y', or

- any claim in the ACC earners' account with a work-related flag set to 'Y', or
- any claim with location 'farm' by people with agricultural occupations (excluding non-earners and those involved in a sport or recreational activity).

Only accepted claims are included. Claims identified as self harm are excluded.

Work-related gradual process, disease, or infection: includes changes to the body that develop slowly and progressively over time and result in personal injury, such as the effects of exposure to noise or fumes at a workplace or physical deterioration resulting from an activity you can carry out over the course of your work (such as keyboarding). Work-related gradual process is covered under the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (section 30).

When determining a gradual process claim ACC considers the following key elements:

- whether the injury occurred over a period of four weeks or more
- whether a characteristic of the work environment has caused the personal injury
- whether the particular characteristic that has caused or contributed to the injury is present in the person's non-work environment
- whether the risk of personal injury is greater for people who work in the employment environment than those who do not.

Related links

Upcoming releases

Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2014 will be released in October 2015.

[Subscribe to information releases](#), including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

[The release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

[Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims](#) has links to past releases.

Related information

[The Injury Information Portal](#) provides links to:

- published data reports
- information about injury data collected in New Zealand
- reports and articles about injury data
- websites of other agencies that produce injury information.

Data quality

Period-specific information

This section has information about data that has changed since the last release.

- [Reference period](#)
- [Changes since the last release](#)

General information

This section has information on data that has not changed between releases.

- [Data sources](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [Consistency with other periods or datasets](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)
- [Classifications used in the information release](#)

Period-specific information

Reference period

This release contains provisional statistics for work-related claims for injuries in the 2013 calendar year. It also includes final statistics for injuries in the 2012 calendar year. Both of these are as reported by 8 August 2014.

Changes since the last release

Industry tables: the level 1 industry classification 'Agriculture, forestry, and fishing' has been further subdivided into 'Agriculture', 'Forestry', and 'Fishing', so that the number of claims in these industry groups can be monitored separately. This sub-classification has been added to tables 19, 20, and 21 in the provisional 2013 and final 2012 tables. Incidence rates are not available for agriculture, forestry and fishing separately.

Industry tables have been included in the trend tables for the first time. Improved management of claims since 2011 has resulted in more claims being coded to specific industries and fewer being coded as 'Not specified'. Keep this in mind when comparing year-on-year trends.

General information

Data sources

Data on claims for work-related injuries is from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). All claims are included under the calendar year when the injury occurred. 2013 figures are provisional; final figures for 2013 will be published in 2015.

Figures for the number of full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) are sourced from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). These figures are used to calculate incidence rates.

Accuracy of the data

Age

Age specifies an injured person's age at the date of injury. It is calculated from the date of birth. This age may differ from the worker's age when the claim is lodged, the age when compensation is received, or the age at death (if the worker dies of the injury).

Data on work-related injuries for people aged 14 years and under has been grouped into 'other and unspecified'. This is due to uncertainty about the ages recorded for people in this group. In previous years, claims by people aged 14 years and under made up less than 1 percent of total claims.

Claims

Claims by employees working for employers who are part of ACC's Accredited Employer Partnership Programme are only included if they conform to the same data quality standard as normal claims managed by ACC. A significant proportion of accredited employer claims submitted by employers or their appointed administrators are not included in this release due to data quality issues.

Ethnic group reporting

Ethnic group reporting uses 'total response' for both the number of claims and the number of FTEs.

Total response counts the injured person once in every ethnic group they identify with. For example, people of Samoan, Tongan, and Māori ethnicities would be counted once in the 'Pacific peoples' category and once in the 'Māori' category.

Counting individuals in more than one ethnic group means the sum of the ethnic groups is greater than the number of people. However, it also means that all ethnicities are counted and identified in a specific unambiguous ethnic group and that the relative size of the groups within the population is fairly represented.

In this release, up to three separate ethnic groups are reported for each claim. Any remaining ethnic groups reported have been grouped as 'other' ethnicity. As multiple ethnicities are coded in the same manner by ACC and the HLFS, the numerator and denominator are consistent in the calculation of incidence rates.

Claims involving treatment at hospital accident and emergency departments

Treatment lasting less than three hours, and provided at a hospital accident and emergency department (ED), is bulk funded by ACC directly to the district health boards (DHBs) and is not recorded against individual claims. As a result, claims involving treatment provided at the ED for less than three hours are not included in this release.

Full-time equivalent employees

Because FTE numbers are derived from a sample survey (the HLFS), the FTE figures are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error, and should therefore be seen as indicative rather than definitive.

HLFS population rebase and incidence rates by ethnicity

The December 2008 quarter HLFS release included a population rebase that revised the statistical series back to the 2001 Census to reflect revisions to the population estimates derived from the 2006 Census. In addition, population benchmarks for the Māori ethnic group were introduced to improve the quality of the Māori estimates. All the figures including and subsequent to the 2007 final incidence rates are based on rebased FTE figures; however, earlier incidence rates have not been revised.

For most of the data, the FTE figures after the rebase were similar to those before the rebase, so that the incidence rate calculations were also similar. However, the new Māori population benchmark increased the number of FTEs for Māori. This change has caused a break in the series of incidence rates by ethnicity between 2006 and 2007. Therefore, trends in these rates are not discussed in this release.

Percentages

All percentages in the information release are calculated from unrounded data with the exception of percentages for fatal claims, where the percentages are calculated from rounded data.

Rounding

All fatal claim counts in the tables have been randomly rounded using the standard Statistics NZ random rounding to base 3 method. In this routine, all counts are randomly rounded up or down to one of the adjoining multiples of three (eg a count of five would be displayed as either 3 or 6, and a count of one would be displayed as either 0 or 3). Non-fatal claim counts are rounded to the nearest hundred. Rounding may result in totals disagreeing slightly with the total of individual items shown in the tables.

Consistency with other periods or datasets

Comparability with the serious injury outcome indicators

Data from ACC on work-related injury claims is also used for injury surveillance and monitoring through the serious injury outcome indicators. The indicators present annual frequencies and rates for outcomes of serious injury in New Zealand. For work-related injury, the indicators present measures for fatal injuries, and serious non-fatal injuries (these are injuries which meet a certain threshold of severity). They also present a serious injury indicator, which combines the fatal and serious non-fatal data. While the data used in the indicators has some similarities with the data used in this information release, there are some key differences:

- The indicators contain high-level figures, while the information release contains a more detailed breakdown of the data.
- The work-related fatalities published in the serious injury outcome indicators publication include work-related fatalities notified to WorkSafe New Zealand (formerly to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) as well as those for which an ACC claim was made.
- The data is presented differently in each publication. The information release separates the data into all claims, entitlement claims, and fatal claims. The indicators present frequency and rates based on outcome of injury, ie fatal or not fatal, for serious and fatal claims only.

- The indicators present data for fatal injuries as three-year moving averages, due to the small numbers. The information release publishes fatal data for single years, but uses random rounding on all numbers (see [Rounding](#)).

See [Serious injury outcome indicator reports](#) for more information.

Interpreting the data

Counting claims vs counting injuries

The data in this information release is for claims for work-related injuries, and is not a definitive count of all work-related injuries. This is because not all work-related injuries result in a claim to ACC.

Similarly for fatal injuries, the statistics in this release are not a definitive count of work-related fatalities. Firstly, not all fatal work-related injuries are the subject of claims to ACC. Secondly, in this release fatal work-related injuries are counted in the year that the injury took place. This differs from ACC's practice of counting work-related deaths in the year that the death took place.

Classifications used in the information release

Employment status

Employment status indicates whether a worker is self-employed (that is, working for himself/herself), or is an employee (working for another person or entity).

Employment status covers all those 'working for wages and salaries', including those working employers who belong to the ACC partnership programme. The self-employed figures include those classified as 'self-employed and not employing others', but exclude those 'working without pay or profit in a family business'. While this differs from the definition in the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), it corresponds closely to definitions used for workplace accident insurance.

Industry

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), New Zealand Version 2006, (Version 1.0) is used to classify each business by industry.

Occupation

Occupation is classified according to the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (NZSCO), 1995, Version 2.0.

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Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

2013 provisional statistics

1. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2013, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by occupation and sex
10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2013, by occupation and ethnic group
13. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by employment status and sex
14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
18. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by geographic region
19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2013, by industry
22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by type of injury/illness/disease and sex
23. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2013, by type of injury/illness/disease and sex
24. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by body site of injury and sex
25. Claims for work-related injuries in 2013, by type of payment

2012 final statistics

1. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2012, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by occupation and sex

10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2012, by occupation and ethnic group
13. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by employment status and sex
14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
18. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by geographic region
19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2012, by industry
22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by type of injury/illness/disease and sex
23. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2012, by type of injury/illness/disease and sex
24. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by body site of injury and sex
25. Claims for work-related injuries in 2012, by type of payment

Trends for 2002–12

1. Claims for work-related injuries, 2002–12
2. Claims for work-related injuries, by sex, 2002–12
3. Claims for work-related injuries, by age, 2002–12
4. Claims for work-related injuries, by occupation, 2002–12
5. Claims for work-related injuries, by employment status, 2002–12
6. Claims for work-related injuries, by geographic region, 2002–12
7. Claims for work-related injuries, by type of injury/illness/disease, 2002–12
8. Claims for work-related injuries, by percentage of type of injury/illness/disease, 2002–12
9. Claims for work-related injuries, by industry, 2002–12

Access more data on NZ.Stat

Tables will be available on NZ.Stat on October 15 2014.

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