

Embargoed until 10:45am – 29 October 2008

## Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2007

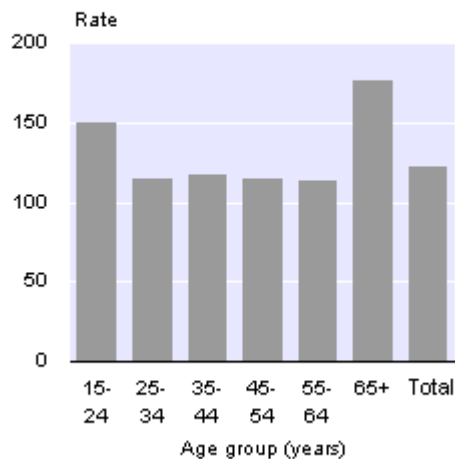
Revised 21 January 2009 – See attached Erratum

### Highlights

- There were 231,300 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in 2007.
- Sixty-seven claims were lodged for work-related fatalities.
- The manufacturing; construction; and agriculture, forestry and fishing industries accounted for 36 percent of all claims.
- Workers aged 65 years and over had a higher rate of claims than any other age group.
- The number of work-related claims remained relatively stable in the period between 2002 and 2007.

### Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

By age group  
2007



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

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29 October 2008  
ISSN 1178 2160

See also [Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2007 – Media release](#).

# Commentary

## All work-related injury claims

The provisional number of claims for work-related injuries that occurred in the 2007 calendar year was 231,300 (as reported by 31 March 2008). Around 26,000 (11 percent) of these claims resulted in the payment of weekly compensation, the independence allowance, rehabilitation costs, or death benefits. The remainder resulted in the payment of medical fees only.

In 2007 there was an average of 122 work-related injury claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. The respective rates for females and males were 79 and 154 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

The total cost of treatment, compensation and rehabilitation for work-related injuries that occurred in 2007 was \$227 million.

All figures presented in this Hot Off The Press are provisional because claims for injuries that occurred in 2007 can still be updated and filed. The number of claims, the rate of claims, and the cost of claims are expected to rise as more information is received from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) in the year ahead. Final work-related injury figures (as reported by 31 March 2009) will be released in October 2009.

## Industry

Workers in the manufacturing industry lodged 39,100 work-related claims (17 percent of all claims). This was substantially higher than the number made by workers in any other industry. Workers in the construction industry, and the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry lodged the second and third-highest numbers, with 24,500 and 19,600 claims, respectively. Together, these three industries accounted for 36 percent of all work-related claims, but only around 30 percent of the workforce.

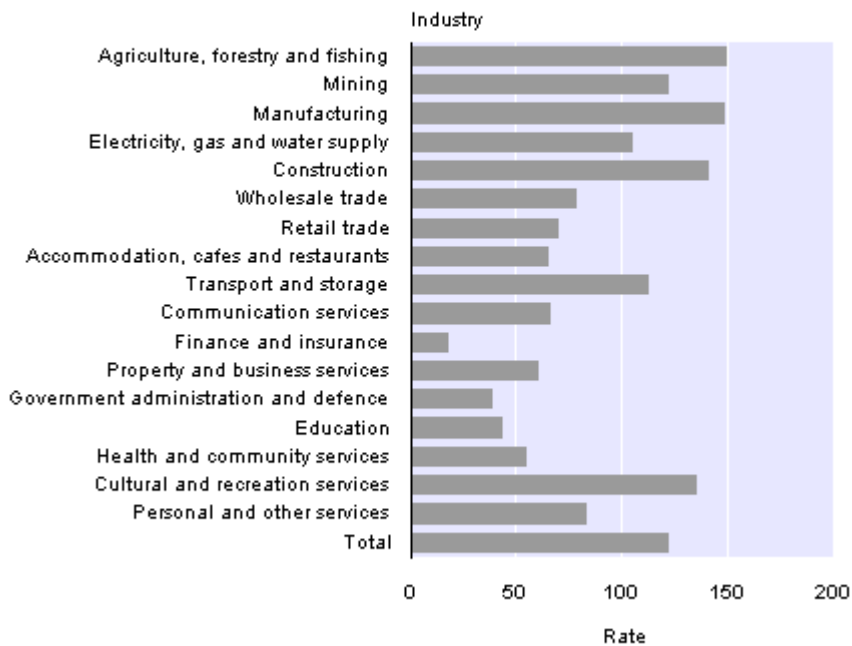
The incidence rate of work-related claims was highest in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, with 150 claims per 1,000 FTEs. This was followed by the manufacturing industry (with 149 claims per 1,000 FTEs), and the construction industry (with 141 claims per 1,000 FTEs) The finance and insurance industry had the lowest rate, at 18 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Females made more work-related claims than males in the accommodation, cafes and restaurants industry, the finance and insurance industry, the education industry, and the health and community services industry. Together, these four industries accounted for only 10 percent of all work-related claims. Males lodged more claims than females in all the industries that accounted for the remaining 90 percent of claims.

## Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

*By industry*

2007



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

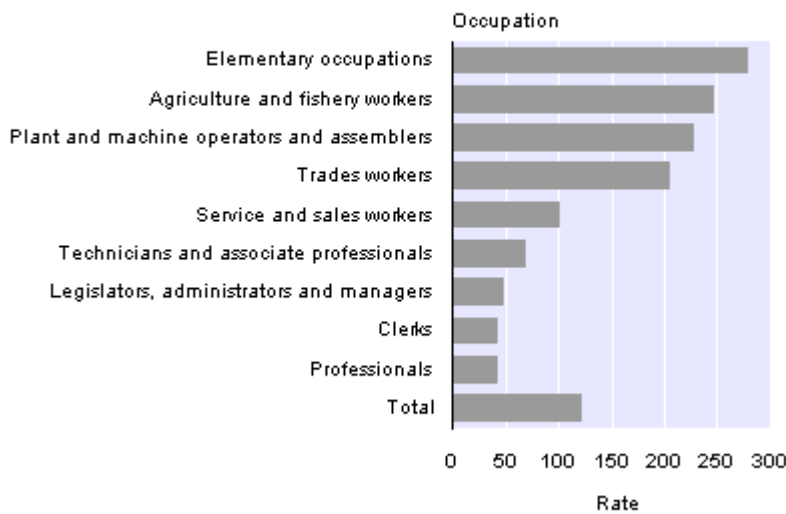
## Occupation

By occupation group, trades workers lodged the most claims for work-related injuries, with 44,200 claims (19 percent of all claims). The second and third-highest numbers were lodged by plant and machine operators and assemblers (38,300 claims), and agriculture and fishery workers (31,600 claims).

Workers in the elementary occupations group (eg labourers and cleaners) had the highest incidence rate, at 279 work-related injury claims per 1,000 FTEs. Agriculture and fishery workers (247 claims per 1,000 FTEs), and plant and machine operators and assemblers (229 claims), had the next highest rates. The lowest rate was 42 claims per 1,000 FTEs, which occurred in the professionals occupation group.

Males accounted for more work-related injury claims than females in all occupation groups, with the exception of service and sales workers, clerks, and professionals, where females made 60, 57 and 51 percent of claims, respectively. Males made 97 percent of all claims by trades workers, 87 percent of all claims by plant and machine operators and assemblers, and 78 percent of all claims by agriculture and fishery workers. As noted above, these three occupation groups accounted for the greatest proportion of work-related claims.

**Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims**  
*By occupation*  
 2007

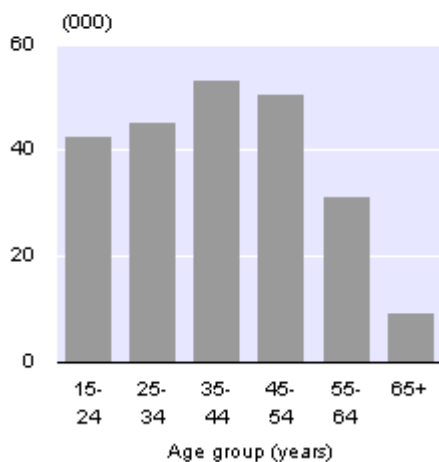


(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

**Age**

Workers aged between 35 and 44 years made more claims for work-related injuries than any other age group, with 53,000 claims (23 percent of all claims). This was closely followed by workers aged between 45 and 54 years, who made 50,000 claims (22 percent of all claims).

**Number of ACC Work-related Claims**  
*By age group*  
 2007



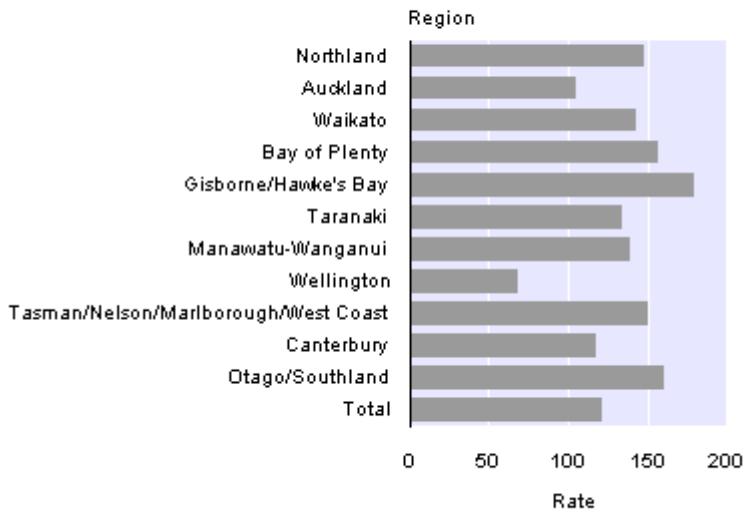
Although workers aged 65 years and over made only 4 percent of all claims (9,200 claims), this age group had the highest incidence rate of 177 claims per 1,000 FTEs. Workers aged between 15 and 24 years had the second-highest rate, with 150 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

## Geographic region

Of all work-related claims, 27 percent (63,300) were made for injuries that occurred in Auckland region. This was considerably higher than the percentage of claims for any other region. However, the regions with the highest incidence rates were Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, and Bay of Plenty, which had 180 and 157 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively. Wellington and Auckland regions had the lowest rates, at 69 and 105 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.

### Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

By region  
2007



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

## Employment status

The large majority of work-related claims (194,000 or 84 percent) were lodged by employees. However, the self-employed had a considerably higher incidence rate (183 claims per 1,000 FTEs) than employees (115 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

## Scene of injury

Around 89,400 claims (39 percent of all claims) were made for injuries that occurred in a commercial or service location, and around 67,200 (29 percent) were made for injuries that occurred in an industrial place.

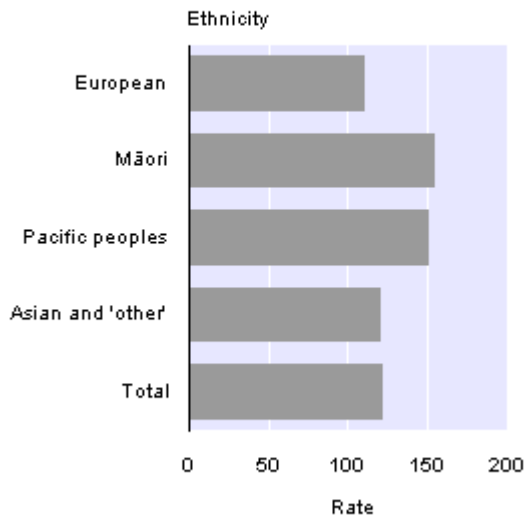
## Ethnicity

Europeans lodged 157,400 claims for work-related injuries. This represents 68 percent of all work-related claims. Another 12 percent of claims (28,400 claims) were made by Māori. Pacific peoples and Asians lodged 6 and 5 percent of claims (13,100 and 10,500 claims), respectively.

Māori had an incidence rate of 155 claims per 1,000 FTEs, compared with 152 for Pacific peoples, and 111 for Europeans. This is consistent with figures showing that Māori were overrepresented in the elementary, and the plant and machine operators and assemblers occupational groups, both of which have high claim rates.

## Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

*By ethnicity*  
2007



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

### Type of injury

Sprains and strains accounted for 99,400 work-related claims (43 percent of all claims). This was considerably higher than the number lodged for open wounds (35,000 claims or 15 percent) and contusions (21,300 claims or 9 percent), which were the second and third most common types of injury resulting in a work-related claim.

### Bodily location of injury

When grouped by bodily location, injuries to the wrist and hand; and injuries to the lower torso (abdomen, lower back, lumbar, spine and pelvis) were the most common cause for work-related claims, accounting for 41,600 and 41,700 claims, respectively (each with 18 percent of all claims). Injuries to the head and neck were the third most common cause, accounting for 34,400 claims (15 percent).

### Claims per person

The 231,300 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in 2007 were made by 205,500 people. Most people (184,000 or 90 percent) lodged only one claim. Around 18,400 people (9 percent) lodged two claims (that is, made claims for two separate injury events). Less than 1 percent of those who sustained a work-related injury lodged more than two claims. Sometimes more than one claim is recorded for the original injury and these are both recorded in the data. Statistics New Zealand makes every effort possible to identify these claims, and remove from the data all but one claim.

## Injury claims resulting in the payment of entitlements

Work-related injury claims that result in the payment of earnings-related compensation, the independence allowance, rehabilitation costs, or death benefits are collectively referred to as 'entitlement claims'. These claims are associated with more severe injuries than those that result in the payment of medical fees only. Around 30,000 entitlement claims were lodged for work-related injuries that occurred in 2007, giving an incidence rate of 16 serious injury claims per 1,000 FTEs.

### Industry

The highest number of injuries resulting in entitlement claims occurred in the manufacturing industry, which had 6,800 such claims (23 percent of all entitlement claims). The construction industry had the second-highest number (4,200 or 14 percent), followed by the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (3,500 or 12 percent).

The distribution of entitlement claims across industries was reasonably similar to the distribution for all claims. However, the transport and storage industry did account for a substantially higher percentage of entitlement claims (22 percent) than all work-related claims (6 percent).

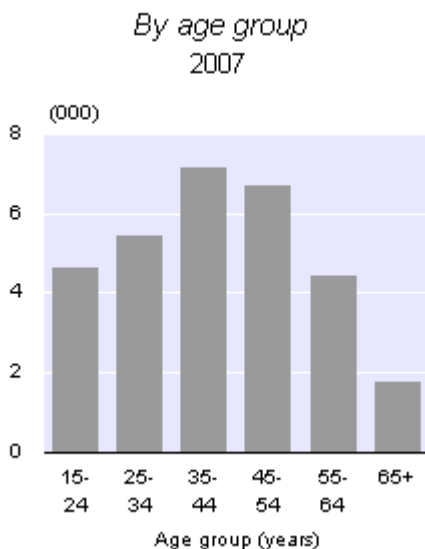
### Occupation

By occupation group, plant and machine operators and assemblers lodged the most entitlement claims (6,900 or 23 percent of all entitlement claims). The second and third-highest numbers were made by trades workers (5,400 or 18 percent), and elementary occupations (4,200 or 14 percent). The high percentage of entitlement claims for these three occupation groups is consistent with the figures for all work-related claims.

### Age

As was the case for all work-related claims, workers aged between 35 and 44 years lodged more entitlement claims than any other age group, with 7,100 claims (24 percent of all entitlement claims). The fewest claims were made by workers aged 65 years and over, who lodged 1,800 claims (6 percent).

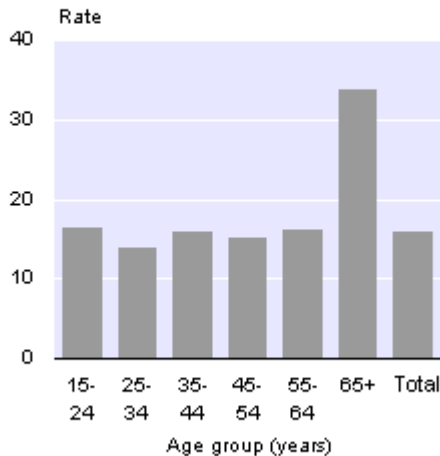
### Number of ACC Work-related Entitlement Claims



The 65 years and over age group had an incidence rate of 34 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. This was considerably higher than the incidence rate for any other age group. For instance, the second-highest rate was 16 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs, which occurred among workers aged between 15 and 24 years, 35 and 44 years, and 55 and 64 years.

### Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Entitlement Claims

By age group  
2007



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

### Geographic region

The highest number of injuries resulting in entitlement claims occurred in Auckland region, which accounted for 23 percent of such claims. However, this region had the second-lowest incidence rate of 12 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. Wellington region had the lowest rate, with nine entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. The highest rates occurred in Otago/Southland, and Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, which had 40 and 23 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.

### Ethnicity

Approximately 19,600 entitlement claims (65 percent of all entitlement claims) were made by Europeans. Māori had the highest incidence rate with 26 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. The respective rates for Pacific peoples and Europeans were 19 and 14 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. These figures are consistent with those reported for all work-related claims.

### Type of injury

Of all entitlement claims, 11,100 (or 37 percent) were made for sprains and strains. Open wounds, the second most common type of injury resulting in entitlement claims, accounted for 3,100 such claims (10 percent).

### Fatal injury claims

Fatal injury claims are those claims made to ACC for deaths that resulted from either workplace injuries (for instance, a work-related fall) or occupational diseases (for instance, asbestos-related illnesses). There were 67 claims lodged for fatal injuries that occurred in 2007, and the large majority of these claims were for males. The incidence rate for 2007 was four fatal injury claims per 100,000 FTEs.

The provisional figure for claims for fatal injuries occurring in 2007 is expected to increase in 2008, as workers who have been seriously injured fail to recover. It should also be noted that not all work-related fatalities result in claims to ACC.

The construction industry had the highest number of fatal injury claims, with 16 claims (24 percent of all fatal injury claims). This was followed by the manufacturing industry, which had nine claims (13 percent). These figures parallel the high rates of claims for all work-related injury within these two industries.

By occupation group, 11 of those who died were agriculture and fishery workers, and 10 were plant and machine operators and assemblers. The remaining 46 fatal injury claims were distributed across a range of occupations.

Both the number and the incidence rate of fatal injury claims increased with age. Nineteen claims were lodged for people aged 65 years and over, giving this age group an incidence rate of 36 fatal injury claims per 100,000 FTEs. By comparison, people aged between 55 and 64 years (the second-oldest age group, with the second-highest number and incidence rate of fatal injury claims) accounted for 15 claims and had an incidence rate of five fatal injury claims per 100,000 FTEs.

Fifteen claims were lodged for work-related fatal injuries that occurred in Auckland region. The next highest number was in Canterbury, which accounted for 10 claims. Otago/Southland, with seven claims, had the highest incidence rate, at nine fatal injury claims per 100,000 FTEs. Manawatu-Wanganui, had seven fatal injury claims per 100,000 FTEs, giving this region the second-highest incidence rate.

## **Trends in work-related claims**

Final data on work-related injury claims between 2002 and 2006 indicate stability in the incidence of such claims. While there was a decrease in the annual number of claims, the change was small. Specifically, the number of work-related claims dropped from 240,100 claims in 2002, to 238,900 claims in 2006. This represents a 0.5 percent decrease in the number of claims.

Males consistently accounted for approximately three-quarters of all work-related claims between 2002 and 2006. The distribution of claims by industry, occupation, age and ethnic group also remained relatively constant over this period.

There were 95 work-related fatal injury claims in 2002, 93 in 2003, 94 in 2004, 92 in 2005, and 103 in 2006. These figures are best interpreted with caution due to the small number of claims involved.

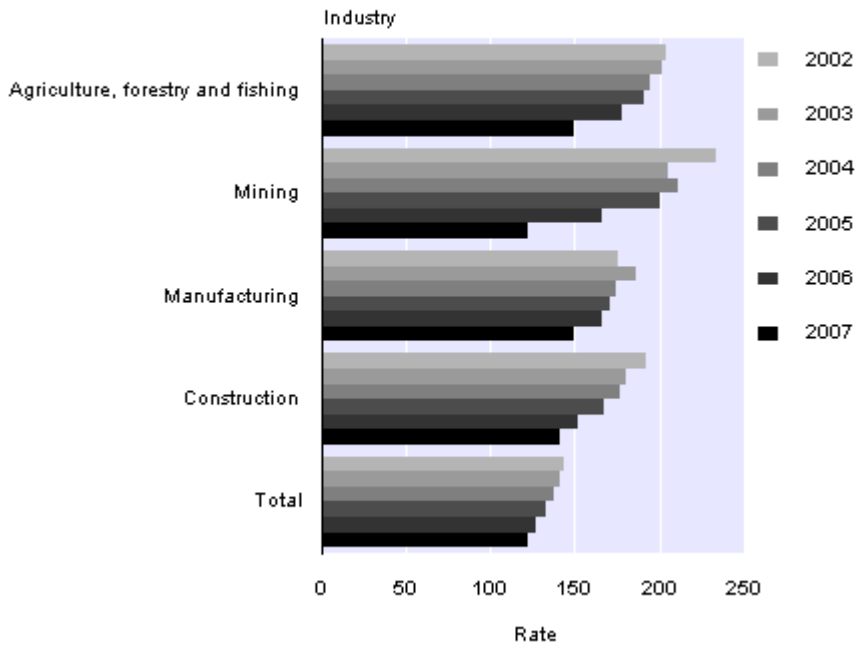
## **Industry**

The manufacturing industry accounted for the highest number of claims between 2002 and 2006, despite a small drop from 49,200 claims in 2002 to 44,200 in 2006. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had 28,600 claims in 2002 and 23,300 in 2006. The construction industry had the next highest numbers, with 22,100 claims in 2002, and 26,900 in 2006.

The highest incidence rate of claims occurred in the mining industry in each of the four years between 2002 and 2005, although the exact rate for this industry dropped from 234 to 201 claims per 1,000 FTEs. It should be noted however that the mining industry is relatively small, so the incidence rate for this industry is therefore sensitive to small alterations in the annual number of claims. In 2006, agriculture, forestry and fishing had the highest rate, at 181 claims per 1,000 FTEs, although this had decreased from the 2002 figure of 204 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Between 2002 and 2006, the agriculture, forestry and fishing; construction; and manufacturing industries consistently had the second-highest claim rates, after the mining industry.

**Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims**  
*By leading industries*  
 2002-07



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

**Note:** The 2007 figures are provisional, and are therefore not directly comparable with the earlier years.

**Occupation**

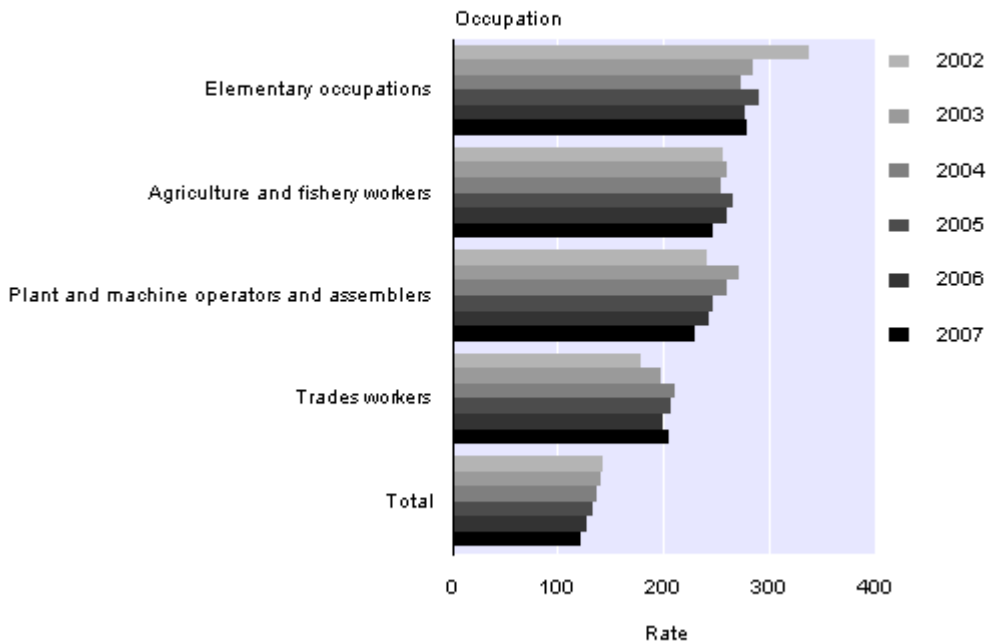
Between 2002 and 2006, plant and machine operators and assemblers made the highest number of work-related claims. The number of claims by this occupation group rose steadily from 39,700 in 2002 to 42,700 in 2006. Trades workers, agriculture and fishery workers, and workers in elementary occupations accounted for the next-highest numbers of claims, but the ordering of these groups varied between individual years.

The elementary occupations group had the highest rate of work-related claims between 2002 and 2006, although the actual rate fluctuated from a high of 337 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002 to a low of 281 in 2006. Agriculture and fishery workers, plant and machine operators and assemblers, and trades workers had the next-highest rates.

## Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

By leading occupations

2002-07



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

**Note:** The 2007 figures are provisional, and are therefore not directly comparable with the earlier years.

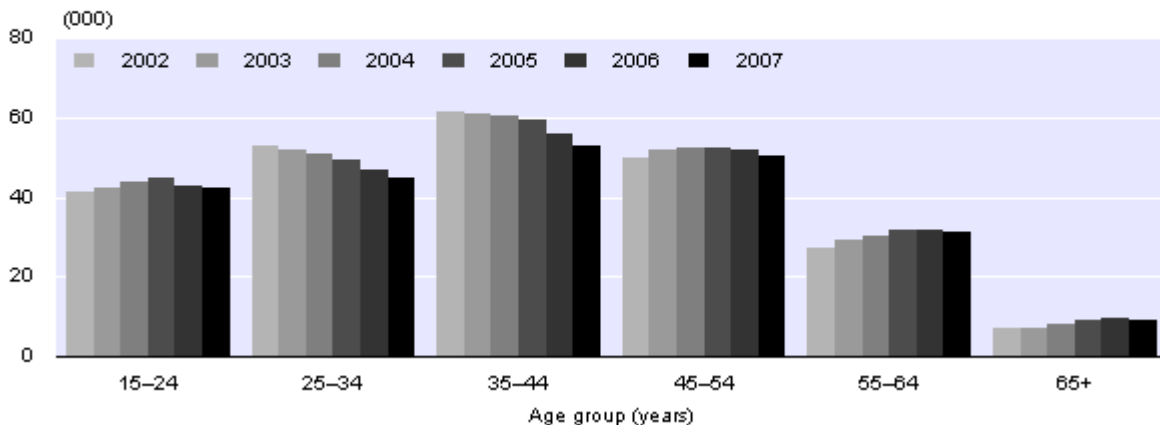
### Age

Although the annual number of claims lodged by workers aged between 35 and 44 years decreased by 9 percent between 2002 and 2006 (from 61,300 to 56,000 claims), this age group consistently had the most claims. Claims by workers aged 45 to 54 years rose from 50,400 to 52,100 claims between 2002 and 2006. For those between 25 and 34 years, the number fell from 52,800 to 46,700 claims over the same period.

Workers aged between 15 and 24 years, 55 and 64 years, and 65 years and over, made the fewest claims between 2002 and 2006. The annual number of claims lodged by those aged 65 years and over increased, rising steadily from 6,800 claims in 2002 to reach 9,300 in 2006. This represents a 27 percent increase for this age group.

## Number of ACC Work-related Claims

By age group  
2002-07

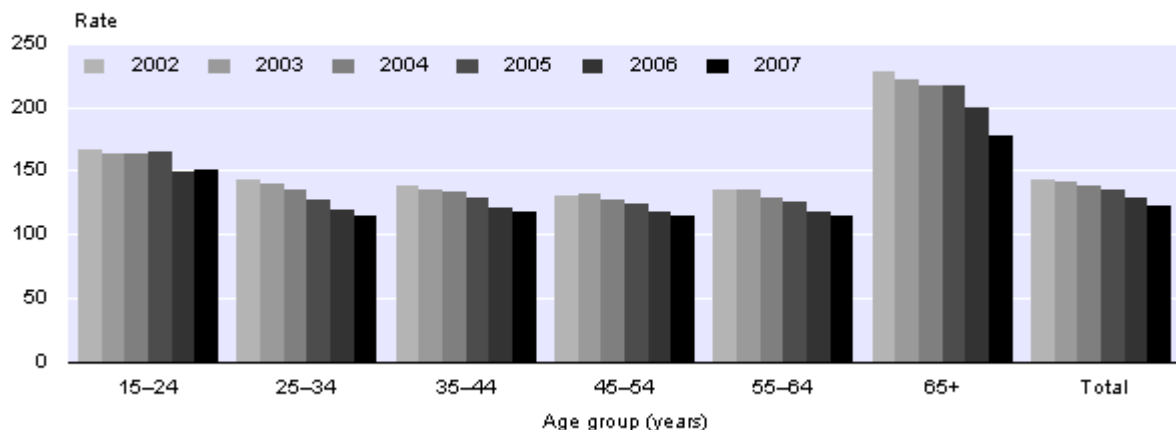


**Note:** The 2007 figures are provisional, and are therefore not directly comparable with the earlier years.

Between 2002 and 2006, workers aged 65 years and over had the highest incidence rate of work-related claims, with 228 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002, and 204 in 2006. Workers aged between 15 and 24 years had the next highest rate, with 166 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002, and 150 in 2006. Claim rates decreased for all age groups between 2002 and 2006.

## Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

By age group  
2002-07



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

**Note:** The 2007 figures are provisional, and are therefore not directly comparable with the earlier years.

## Geographic region

Auckland region consistently had the highest number of injuries resulting in work-related claims, accounting for 61,800 claims in 2002 and 65,000 in 2006. Canterbury had the next-highest numbers, with 35,600 claims in 2002 and 34,800 in 2006.

There were shifts in the rates of work-related claims for individual regions between 2002 and 2006. For instance, the Bay of Plenty jumped from having the fourth-highest rate in 2002 (with 171 claims per 1,000 FTEs) to having the highest rate in 2006 (177). The Bay of Plenty, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Northland, and Waikato had comparatively high claim rates in each of the four years assessed. Wellington and Auckland regions had the lowest rates, with 82 and 118 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002, and 70 and 111 in 2006, respectively.

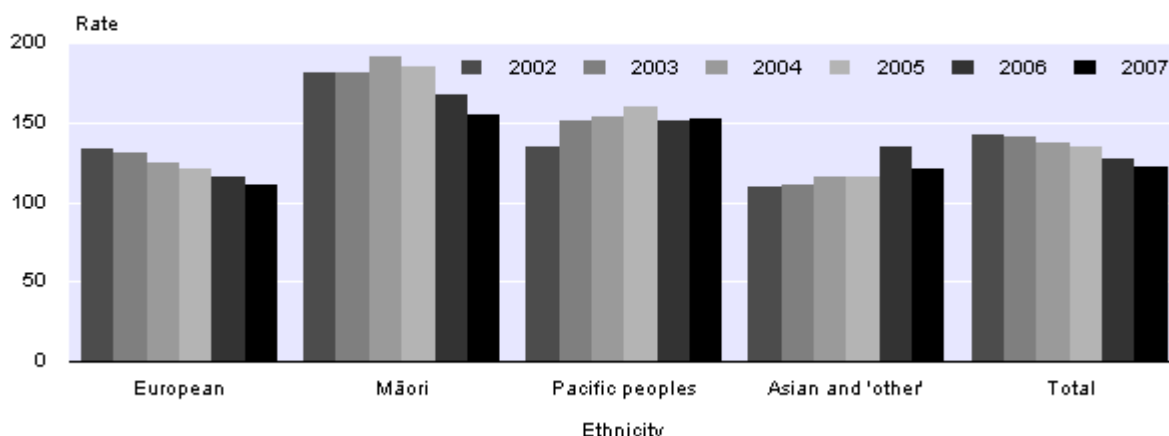
## Ethnicity

Europeans lodged substantially more work-related claims than any other ethnic group in each of the five years between 2002 and 2006. However, this was the only ethnic group to have a decreased number of claims (from 176,400 in 2002 to 165,600 in 2006). The annual number of claims made by Māori rose steadily, from 29,400 in 2002 to 29,800 in 2006. The number lodged by Pacific peoples rose from 10,900 to 13,000, and for Asian workers the number lodged rose from 6,200 to 9,800.

Between 2002 and 2006 the rate of claims dropped for Europeans, but rose for Māori and Pacific peoples. It should be noted, however, that these changes were small and varied. For instance, the rate among Māori rose from a low of 182 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002, to a peak of 191 in 2004, and then dropped to 167 in 2006. Despite these fluctuations, Māori consistently had the highest claim rate, followed by Pacific and European workers.

### Incidence Rate<sup>(1)</sup> of ACC Work-related Claims

By ethnicity  
2002-07



(1) Claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

**Note:** The 2007 figures are provisional, and are therefore not directly comparable with the earlier years.

## Final figures

Final work-related claims for 2006 (as reported by 31 March 2008) are now available. The final figures for the five years between 2002 and 2006 used in this release are also included in this document. They can be downloaded from the Statistics NZ website in Excel format.

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### Next release...

*Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2008* will be released in October 2009.

## Technical notes

Further information about terms used in this release is available in the *Definitions and Classifications* document under Injury Statistics on the Statistics New Zealand website ([www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)).

### Accident Compensation Corporation

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) administers New Zealand's accident compensation scheme, which provides injury insurance for all New Zealand citizens and residents, and temporary visitors to New Zealand.

A claim is made to ACC when treatment for an injury is first sought from any recognised treatment provider, such as a doctor or a physiotherapist. Claims to ACC are divided into different categories for funding purposes and only those that are work related are included in this release. Furthermore, this release only includes claims with costs recorded against them. Consequently, any claims where the only treatment was provided at a hospital accident and emergency department (A&E) are not included as the costs of treatment provided are not recorded against individual claims, and are instead bulk funded by ACC directly to the district health boards (DHBs).

The definition of work-related injuries covered by ACC is determined by legislation, currently the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001.

### Age

Age specifies the age in years, as at the date of injury, and calculated from the date of birth.

This 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.

### Bodily location of injury

Bodily location of injury defines the part or parts of the body damaged in the injury event.

This is classified using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification, Second Edition (ICD-10-AM). Its codes combine information on the type of injury, illness or disease, and the bodily location in a detailed, hierarchical manner.

### Claims for fatal injuries

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

In these statistics deaths that are accepted as work-related by the ACC are counted in the year that the injury took place. The ACC statistics deaths are counted in the year that the death took place. The concept of counting deaths in the year the injury took place is problematic in the case of occupational disease, where the effects of exposure to known carcinogens or other hazardous substances may take many years to become apparent. To create consistency in the count of work-related deaths across years, only deaths occurring within 15 months of the end of the reference year are included in the totals for 'final' estimates. In the case of provisional estimates of work-related fatalities, deaths occurring within three months of the end of the reference year are counted.

It should be noted that by no means all work-related fatal injuries are the subject of claims to ACC. The statistics in this release are not a definitive count of work-related fatalities.

## **Claims for medical fees only**

Claims for medical fees only involve payments by ACC to recognised treatment providers, for example doctors, physiotherapists and pharmacists, but do not involve any entitlement payments to the injured person to cover, for example, rehabilitation or the loss of earnings. The distinction between claims for medical fees only, and claims involving entitlements, has been used in this release to help separate the minor injuries from the more serious injuries, respectively.

## **Claims involving entitlements**

Claims involving entitlement payments to the injured person include death payments, weekly compensation payments, and rehabilitation payments. The distinction between claims for medical fees only, and claims involving entitlements, has been used in this release to help separate the minor injuries from the more serious injuries, respectively.

## **Costs**

The cost to ACC of the treatment or service provided. For entitlement claims, payments are made to provide compensation or rehabilitation and, in the case of death payments, the recipients are the deceased's next of kin.

Treatment provided at a hospital's A&E is bulk funded by ACC directly to the DHBs and is not recorded against individual claims. These costs are not included in the figures in this release.

The costs shown in this release are exclusive of goods and services tax.

## **Diagnosis of injury and illness/disease**

The diagnosis is the type of injury, illness or disease sustained by the worker.

This is classified using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification, Second Edition (ICD-10-AM). Its codes combine information on the type of injury, illness or disease, and the bodily location in a detailed, hierarchical manner.

Where more than one diagnosis was provided for the claim, the first was used on the basis that this was the most important. Diagnoses are aggregated into three groups: 'Injury, poisoning and other consequences of external causes', 'Illness and disease' and 'Other and undefined'. These groupings are based on National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance (NDS-IS) recommendations.

## Employment status

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

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 is non-standard for the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), it corresponds closely to the definitions used for workplace accident insurance.

## Ethnic group

The ethnic group or groups that people identify with or feel they belong to in terms of cultural affiliation.

An ethnic group is a social group whose members:

- share a sense of common origins
- claim a common and distinctive history and destiny
- possess one or more dimensions of collective cultural individuality
- feel a sense of unique collective solidarity.

It is possible that an injured worker, in a claim to ACC, will list more than one ethnic group. However, only one ethnic group has been included in the claims data used for these statistics.

The HLFS allows for up to three ethnic groups to be coded for each respondent, and then the following prioritising system is used to allocate a single ethnic group code:

- Any person who reports a 'Māori' ethnicity is allocated to the 'Māori' category.
- Any person who reports a 'Pacific peoples' ethnicity (that is Samoan, Cook Island Maori, Niuean, Tongan or Other Pacific) but not 'Māori' ethnicity, is allocated to the 'Pacific peoples' category.
- Any person who reports a 'Chinese', 'Indian' and/or 'Other' ethnicity, but not 'Māori' and/or 'Pacific peoples' ethnicity, is allocated to the 'Other' category.
- Any person who reports a 'European/Pakeha' ethnicity only is allocated to the 'European/Pakeha' category only.

This difference in coding multiple ethnicity means that where ACC and HLFS figures are combined, as in the calculation of incidence rates, the numerator and denominator are measured in different ways, even though the labels of the categories used in each are the same.

## Final figures

Claims are included in these tables under the calendar year in which the injury occurred. For final figures, claims are only included if some costs are recorded within 15 months of the end of the calendar year. This allows for a consistent comparison between the years. Details of claims may change after this time. For example, costs may continue to be incurred for many years, and death may occur after this time. However, these statistics will not be updated to reflect these changes.

## **Full-time equivalent employees**

Full-time equivalent employees is the number of full-time employees plus half the number of part-time employees.

The full-time equivalent employee (FTE) measure is used instead of 'total number of employees' for the calculation of 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 is a standard measure used in labour force statistics, for example, to calculate average weekly earnings. The numbers used in the tables for FTEs is derived from the HLFS. The FTE figures used in this release are annual averages.

## **Geographic region where the injury occurred**

Geographic region is 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 in which territorial authority (TA) it occurred, and these TAs are grouped into regions of New Zealand. It also contains a group of codes for injuries that occurred outside New Zealand.

These regions have been chosen for the purposes of this release. Most align with regional council boundaries, but in a few cases TAs straddle these boundaries. Those TAs have been assigned to the region containing the greatest proportion of their population, on the basis of the census usually resident population count, 2001 Census. The TAs involved are Franklin, Waitomo, Taupo, Rotorua, Stratford, Rangitikei, Taranaki and Waitaki districts.

## **Household Labour Force Survey**

Statistics New Zealand's quarterly Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), produces a range of 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, and people living on offshore islands (except Waiheke Island).

The HLFS provides the FTE figures that are used in this release to calculate injury incidence rates by age, sex, ethnic group, employment status, industry, occupation, and region where the injury occurred. The FTE figures used in this release are annual averages.

Being derived from a sample survey, FTE figures are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error, and should therefore be seen as indicative rather than definitive.

## **Incidence rate**

For claims for non-fatal injuries the incidence rate is the number of work-related claims per 1,000 FTEs.

For claims for fatal injuries, the incidence rate is the number of claims for work-related fatal injuries per 100,000 FTEs.

These rates are used as a means of comparing levels of injuries and fatal injuries claims between groups with different numbers of workers. This rate is used by the International Labor Organization to enable comparisons of work-related injuries between countries.

## Industry

Industry covers the type of activity carried out by the organisation, enterprise, business, or unit of economic activity within which the injured person worked.

The Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), New Zealand Version 1996, (Version 4.1) is used to classify each business.

## Injury

The Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation (IPRC) Act 2001, section 26, defines a 'personal injury' to include:

- death
- a physical injury or mental injury caused by a physical injury
- mental injury caused by criminal act
- damage to dentures or prostheses that replace a part of the human body.

The IPRC Act 2001, section 25, defines 'accident' to include:

- 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
- 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.

The IPRC Act 2001 also covers work-related gradual process, disease or infection.

'Gradual process' is defined as:

Changes that result in personal injury and develop slowly and progressively over time, although not necessarily over a definable period such as:

- the effects of exposure to noise or fumes over a few months at a workplace
- the physical deterioration resulting from an activity such as keyboarding where there are no specific events involving impacts or strain
- the progressive degenerative change due to the ageing process.

The second category covers occupational overuse syndromes (OOS), a range of conditions caused/contributed to by work factors resulting in localised inflammation, compression syndromes and pain syndromes.

## Occupation

Occupation is the claimant's occupation at the time of injury. Occupation is classified according to the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (NZSCO), 1995, Version 2.0.

## Provisional figures

Claims are included in these tables under the calendar year in which the injury occurred. For provisional figures, claims are only included if some costs are recorded within three months of the end of the calendar year. For 2007, provisional figures are as at 31 March 2008.

## Scene of injury

The scene of injury is the location where the injury happened. It includes the likes of homes, farms and streets.

## Work-related claims

Work-related claims are those made to ACC for work-related injuries.

The IPRC Act 2001, s28(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, or
- having a rest or meal break at work, or
- travelling to or from work in transport provided by the employer, or
- travelling from work in order to receive treatment for a work-related injury.

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## Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

## Erratum

A correction has been made to table 29, Work-related Injury Trends, 2002–2007, in the Hot Off The Press, *Work-related Injury Claims: October 2008*. The incorrect number '253' was listed under provisional figures 2007 for Otago/Southland. This has been corrected so that the figure now reads '160'.

Statistics New Zealand regrets any inconvenience caused by this error.

## Tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

### 2007

1. Claims for work-related injuries by age and sex
2. Claims for work-related injuries by ethnic group and sex
3. Claims for work-related injuries by occupation and sex
4. Claims for work-related injuries by industry and sex
5. Claims for work-related injuries by geographic region of injury occurrence
6. Claims for work-related injuries by location/scene of injury and sex
7. Claims for work-related injuries by employment status and sex
8. Claims for work-related injuries per person
9. Claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
10. Claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and cost
11. Claims for work-related injuries by bodily location of injury and sex
12. Claims for work-related injuries by number of types of payment per claim
13. Incidence rate of work-related claims by age and ethnic group
14. Incidence rate of work-related claims by occupation and ethnic group
15. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by type of entitlement claim and cost
16. Distribution of cost of claims for work-related injuries
17. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by age and sex
18. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by ethnic group and sex
19. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by occupation and sex
20. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by industry and sex
21. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
22. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
23. Claims for fatal injuries by sex
24. Claims for fatal injuries by age
25. Claims for fatal injuries by ethnic group
26. Claims for fatal injuries by occupation
27. Claims for fatal injuries by industry
28. Claims for fatal injuries by geographic region
29. Work-related injury trends: 2002–2007

## 2006

The following tables have not been printed with this Hot Off the Press but can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the Excel file viewer to view, print, and export the contents of the file.

1. Claims for work-related injuries by age and sex
2. Claims for work-related injuries by ethnic group and sex
3. Claims for work-related injuries by occupation and sex
4. Claims for work-related injuries by industry and sex
5. Claims for work-related injuries by geographic region of injury occurrence
6. Claims for work-related injuries by location/scene of injury and sex
7. Claims for work-related injuries by employment status and sex
8. Claims for work-related injuries per person
9. Claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
10. Claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and cost
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20. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by industry and sex
21. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
22. Entitlement claims for work-related injuries by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
23. Claims for fatal injuries by sex
24. Claims for fatal injuries by age
25. Claims for fatal injuries by ethnic group
26. Claims for fatal injuries by occupation
27. Claims for fatal injuries by industry
28. Claims for fatal injuries by geographic region
29. Work-related injury trends: 2002–2006

 [Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2007 – tables 1–29 \(Excel, 368KB\)](#)

 [Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2006 – tables 1–29 \(Excel, 428KB\)](#)