

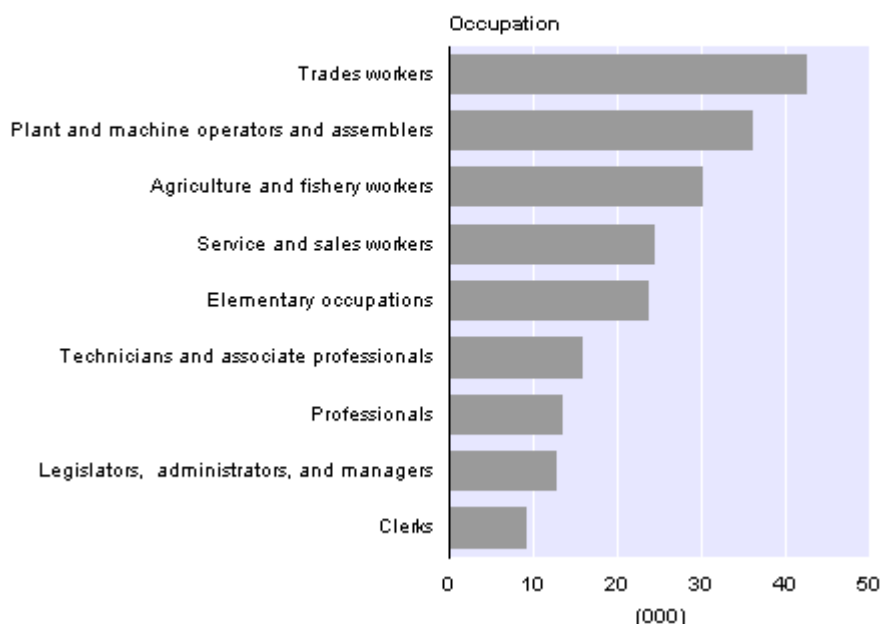
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Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2008

Highlights

- Provisionally, there were 224,900 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in 2008.
- Final figures for 2002–07 show that the number of claims increased slightly each year from 240,100 in 2002 to 246,800 in 2005. The number of claims has decreased both years since then to 235,000 in 2007.
- In 2008, the provisional incidence rate was 117 work-related injury claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).
- The final incidence rate has decreased each year from 143 in 2002 to 123 in 2007.
- Provisionally in 2008, around 13 percent of claims (30,100) resulted in entitlement payments. (The remainder resulted in the payment of medical fees only.)

Work-related Injury Claims
By occupation
2008



Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

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Commentary

Background

The figures presented in this Hot Off the Press are for claims accepted by the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) for work-related injuries. The statistics are based on one claim for each person for each injury event. The information covers all claims for work-related injuries, including claims involving entitlement payments and claims for fatal injuries. Claims are included in the Excel tables under the calendar year in which the injury occurred (see the 'Tables' section).

The information is presented in a different order than in previous years, using a new conceptual framework. Although data is not available to provide information for all of the framework, it has the following elements:

- **individual** – the characteristics of the injured person
- **activity** – the actions carried out by the person just before the injury occurred
- **event or accident** – the injury event or accident
- **environs and locale** – the scene and location of the activity that led to the injury
- **injury** – the damage to the person that resulted from the event or accident
- **outcome** – the effect of the injury on individuals and society.

The figures released for the first time are provisional statistics for 2008 and final statistics for 2007 (both as reported by 31 March 2009). Trends in work-related injuries for the six years from 2002–07 are also reported.

The figures for injuries that occurred in 2008 are provisional because claims for these injuries can still be lodged and updated. The final figures are expected to be higher than the provisional figures as more claims are received over the year. Because the provisional figures for 2008 are not comparable with the figures from earlier years, they have been excluded from the discussion of the trends. Final work-related injury figures for 2008 (as reported by 31 March 2010) will be released in October 2010. (See the 'Technical notes' for details of the definition of final figures which has been developed for the purposes of this release only.)

Summary of work-related injury claims

The provisional number of claims for work-related injuries that occurred in the 2008 calendar year was 224,900 (as reported by 31 March 2009). The 2008 figures may have been influenced by the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Amendment Act 2008 which came into force on 1 August 2008. Two of the aims of the Act were to extend cover where necessary, and make cover more accessible. Details of the amendment are available on the ACC website (www.acc.co.nz).

Claims for Work-related Injuries

By year of injury

2002-07



The final number of claims increased slightly each year from 240,100 in 2002 to 246,800 in 2005. The number of claims has decreased both years since then to 235,000 in 2007.

In 2008, the provisional incidence rate was 117 work-related injury claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).

Incidence Rate of Work-related Injuries

By year of injury

2002-07



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

The final incidence rate has decreased each year from 143 in 2002 to 123 in 2007.

Provisionally, in 2008, around 13 percent of claims (30,100) resulted in entitlement payments. (The remainder resulted in the payment of medical fees only.)

The number of entitlement claims increased from 30,700 in 2002 to 34,900 in 2006, before decreasing slightly in 2007 to 33,700, representing 13 to 15 percent of all claims.

The 2008 provisional incidence rate for entitlement payments is 16 claims per 1,000 FTEs. (The provisional figure for 2007 was also 16.)

Between 2002 and 2007, the incidence rate for entitlement payments fluctuated between 18 and 19 claims per 1,000 FTEs, with the final 2007 incidence rate being 18 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Between 2002 and 2007, the number of claims for fatal work-related injuries fluctuated between 89 and 103. The 2008 provisional figure was 63, similar to the 2007 provisional figure. These figures are best interpreted with caution as not all work-related fatalities result in a claim to ACC.

Characteristics of the injured person

Sex

Provisional claims by sex: 2008

In 2008, 161,400 work-related injury claims (72 percent) were for males. Males had an incidence rate of 148 claims per 1,000 FTEs, which was higher than the rate for females (76 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Provisionally, the number of claims for fatal injuries that occurred in 2008 was 63, and the majority of these claims were for males.

Trends by sex: 2002–07

Males consistently accounted for just under three-quarters (72–74 percent) of all work-related claims between 2002 and 2007, although the proportion has been decreasing slightly over this time.

Males also had a higher incidence rate than females, but the rate for males decreased from 183 in 2002 to 156 in 2007. The rate for females has also decreased over this period from 88 in 2002 to 79 in 2007.

Age

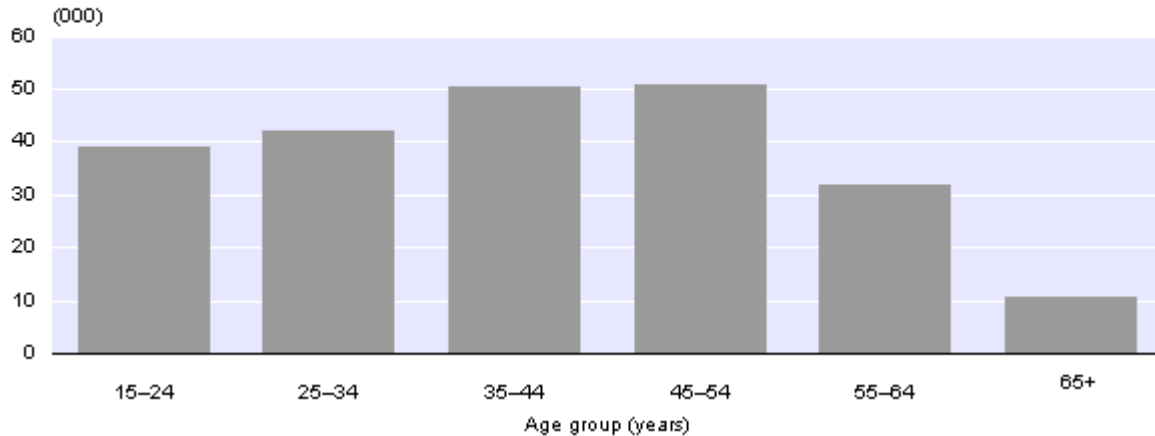
All provisional claims by age: 2008

In 2008, workers aged 45–54 years made more claims for work-related injuries than any other age group, with 50,800 claims (23 percent of all claims). This age group was closely followed by workers aged 35–44 years, who made 50,300 claims (22 percent of all claims).

Claims for Work-related Injuries

By age group

2008



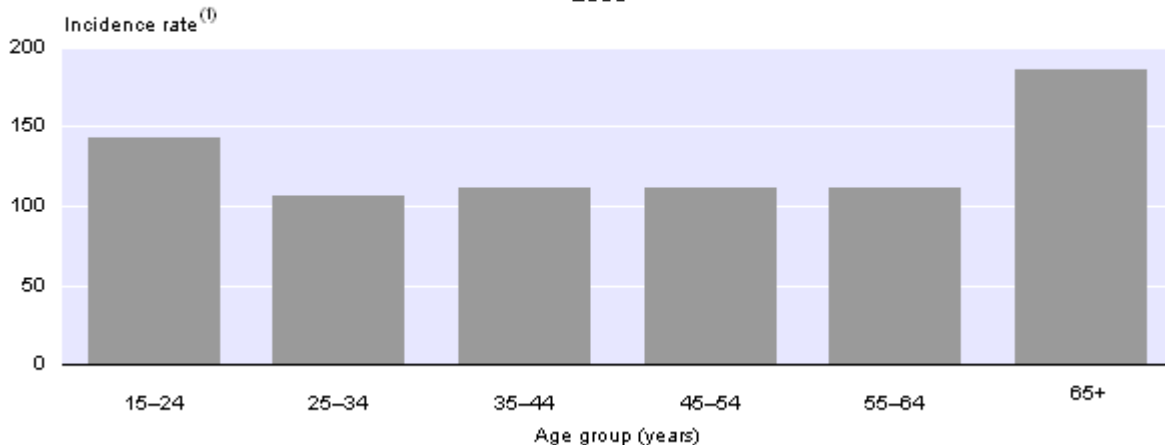
Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

Although in 2008 workers aged 65 years and over (65+) made only 5 percent of all claims (10,500 claims), this age group had the highest incidence rate of 185 claims per 1,000 FTEs. The high incidence rate for older workers is in part due to the small number of these workers (57,000 FTEs) compared with the number in the younger age ranges. Workers aged 15–24 years had the second-highest rate, with 143 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Claims

By age group

2008



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

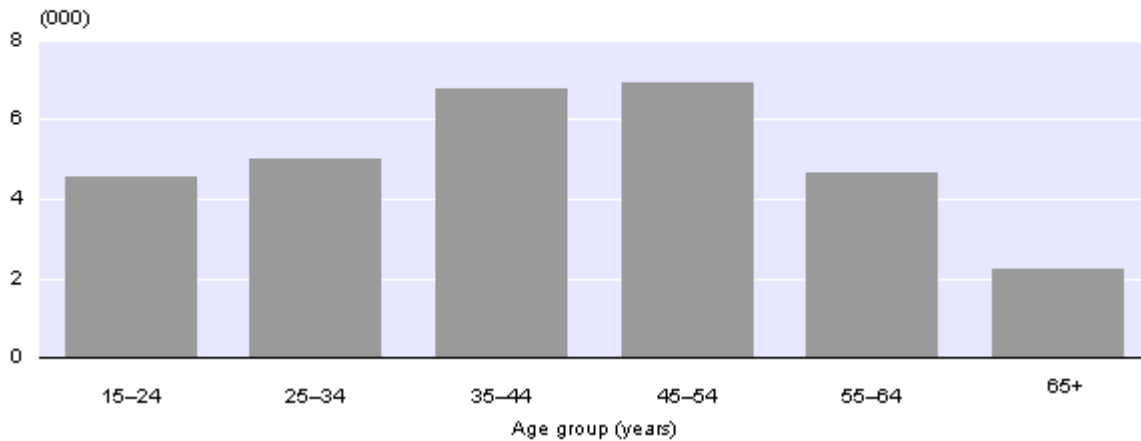
Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

All provisional entitlement claims by age: 2008

As was the case for all work-related claims, in 2008, workers aged 45–54 years lodged more entitlement claims than any other age group, with 6,900 claims (23 percent of all entitlement claims). Workers aged 65+ made the fewest entitlement claims, with 2,200 claims lodged (7 percent).

Work-related Entitlement Claims

By age group
2008

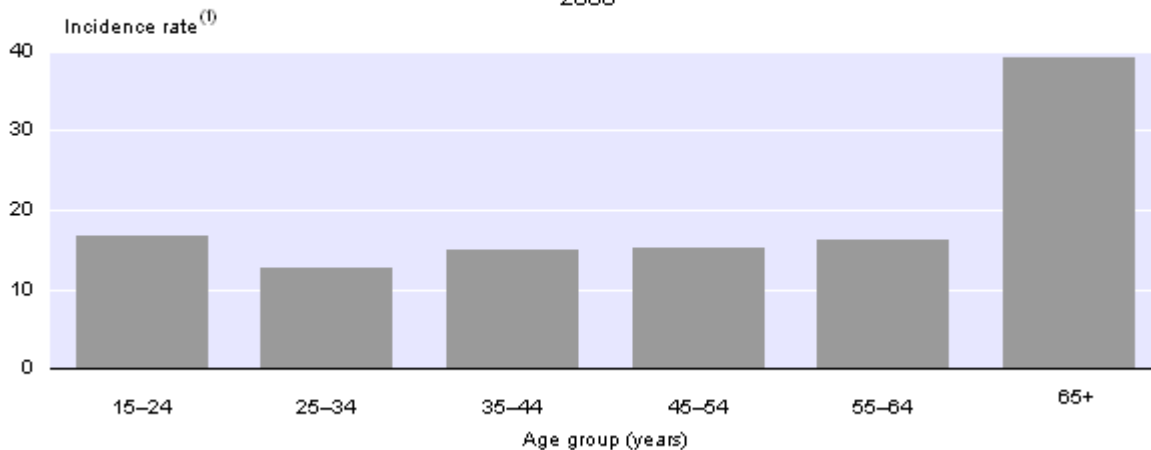


Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

The 65+ age group had an incidence rate of 39 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2008. This rate was considerably higher than the incidence rate for any other age group. The rate for the other age groups varied between 13 and 17 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Entitlement Claims

By age group
2008



(1) Number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent workers.

Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

All provisional fatal claims by age: 2008

The number of fatal injury claims tended to increase with age in 2008. Twenty-four fatal claims were lodged for people aged 65+, which was 38 percent of all fatal claims. By comparison, people aged 55-64 years accounted for 10 claims (16 percent).

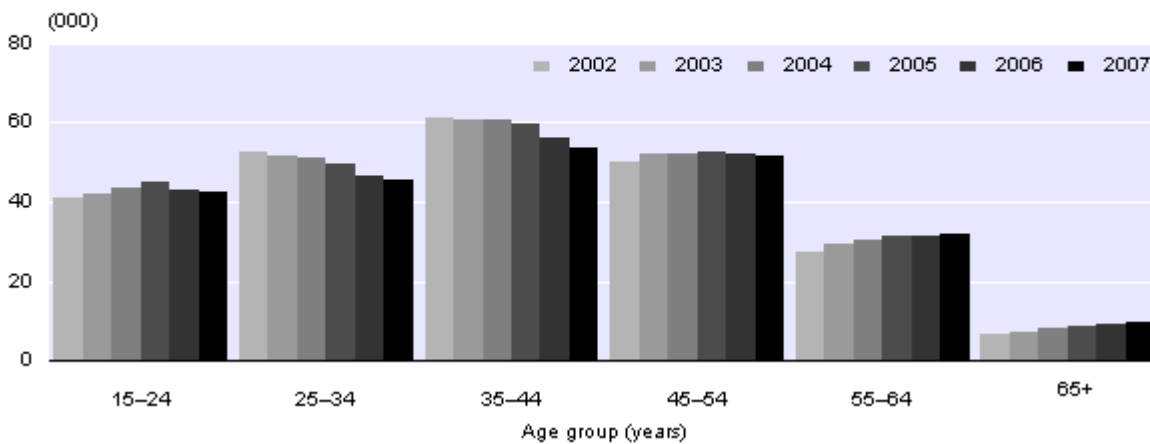
Trends by age: 2002–07

Although the annual number of claims lodged by workers aged 35–44 years decreased 12 percent between 2002 and 2007 (from 61,300 to 53,800 claims), this age group consistently had the most claims. The decrease in the number of claims for this age group has resulted in the claims in 2007 (53,800) being only slightly greater than the number of claims for the next biggest group, those aged 45–54 years, who lodged 51,500 claims in 2007. Claims by workers aged 45–54 years fluctuated between 50,400 to 52,300 claims between 2002 and 2007. For those aged 25–34 years, the number fell from 52,800 to 45,400 claims over the same period.

Workers aged 15–24 years, 55–64 years, and 65+ made the fewest claims between 2002 and 2007. The annual number of claims lodged by those aged 65+ increased, rising steadily from 6,800 claims in 2002 to reach 9,600 in 2007, although claims for this age group comprised only 3 or 4 percent of all claims over the period.

Claims for Work-related Injuries

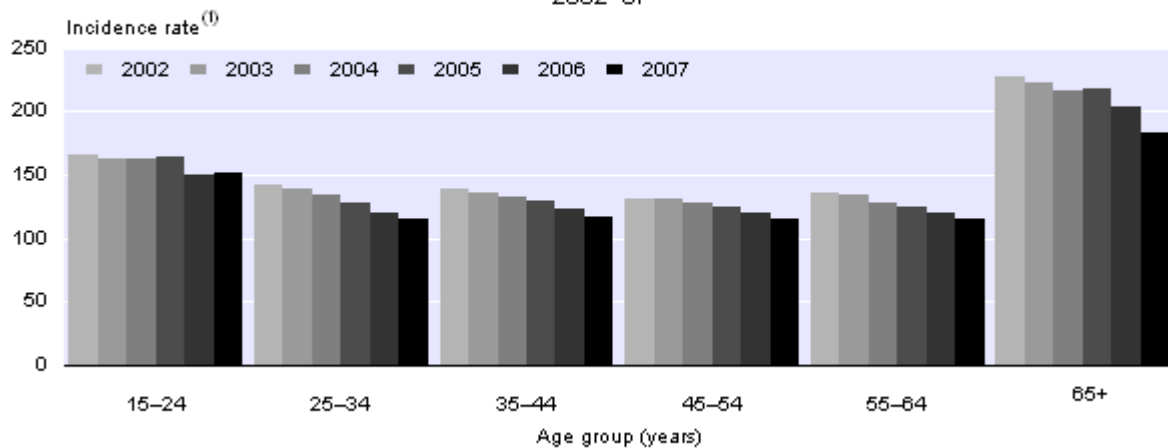
By age group
2002–07



Between 2002 and 2007, workers aged 65+ had the highest incidence rate of work-related claims, with 228 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002 and 183 in 2007. Workers aged 15–24 years had the next highest rate, with 166 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002 and 152 in 2007. Incidence rates decreased for all age groups between 2002 and 2007.

Incidence Rates for Work-related Injuries

By age group
2002-07



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

Ethnicity

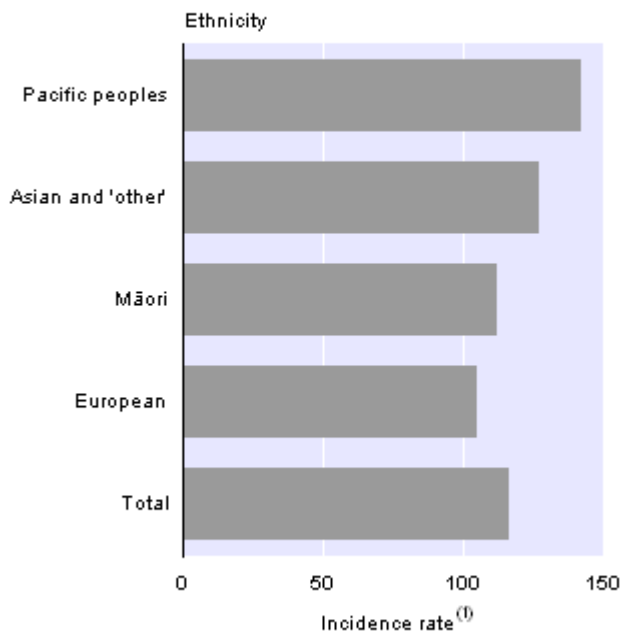
Provisional claims by ethnicity: 2008

Provisionally in 2008, Europeans lodged 146,900 claims for work-related injuries. This figure represents 65 percent of all work-related claims. Māori lodged 12 percent of claims (25,900 claims), Pacific peoples lodged 6 percent (12,700), and those of Asian ethnicity lodged 5 percent (10,900).

Pacific peoples had an incidence rate of 143 claims per 1,000 FTEs, compared with 112 for Māori, and 105 for Europeans.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Injury Claims

By ethnicity
2008



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

Note: The 2008 figures are provisional.

Trends by ethnicity: 2002–07

Because of a population rebase in the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), there has been a break in the series of incidence rates by ethnicity between 2006 and 2007 (see the 'Technical notes' for details). Therefore, trends in these rates will not be published or discussed in this Hot Off the Press.

Statistics New Zealand has recently reviewed the collection and classification of ethnicity for these injury statistics and plans to change to an improved method for the statistics released in October 2010. The change will start new a series for all work-related injury statistics using ethnicity.

Occupation

All provisional claims by occupation: 2008

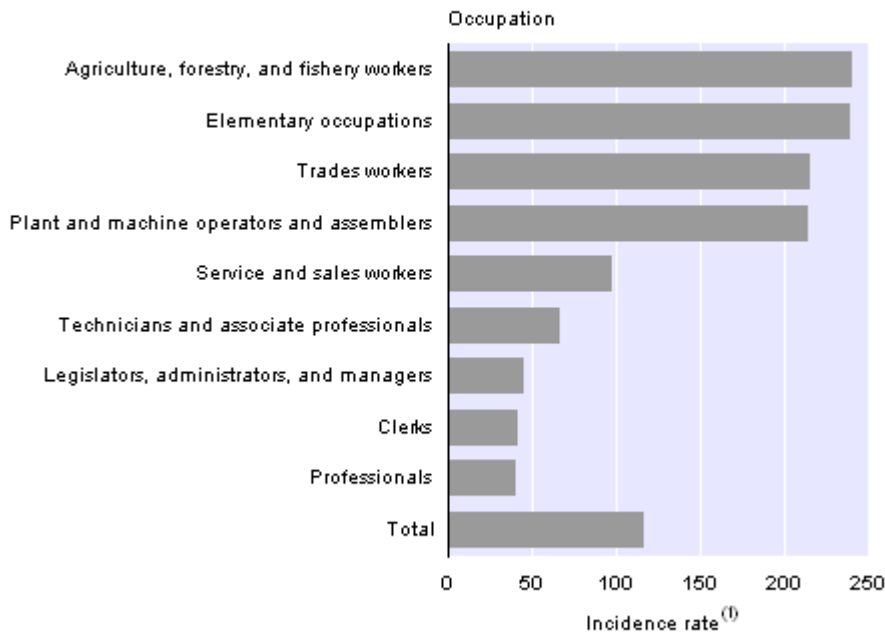
In 2008, trades workers lodged the most claims for work-related injuries, with 42,600 claims (19 percent of all claims). The second- and third-highest number of claims were lodged by plant and machine operators and assemblers (36,300 claims) and agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers (30,400 claims), respectively.

Agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers had the highest incidence rate, at 241 work-related injury claims per 1,000 FTEs. Workers in the elementary occupations group (for example, labourers and cleaners) had the next highest rate at 239 claims per 1,000 FTEs. The lowest rates were for the professionals and clerks occupation groups with 41 and 43 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Injury Claims

By occupation

2008



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

Note: The 2008 figures are provisional. The incidence rate for all work-related claims has been included in the graph for comparison purposes.

All provisional entitlement claims by occupation: 2008

In 2008, plant and machine operators and assemblers lodged the most entitlement claims (7,000 or 23 percent of all entitlement claims). The second- and third-highest number of claims were made by trades workers (5,600 or 19 percent), and agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers (4,100 or 14 percent). The high percentage of entitlement claims for these three occupation groups is consistent with the figures for all work-related claims.

All provisional fatal claims by occupation: 2008

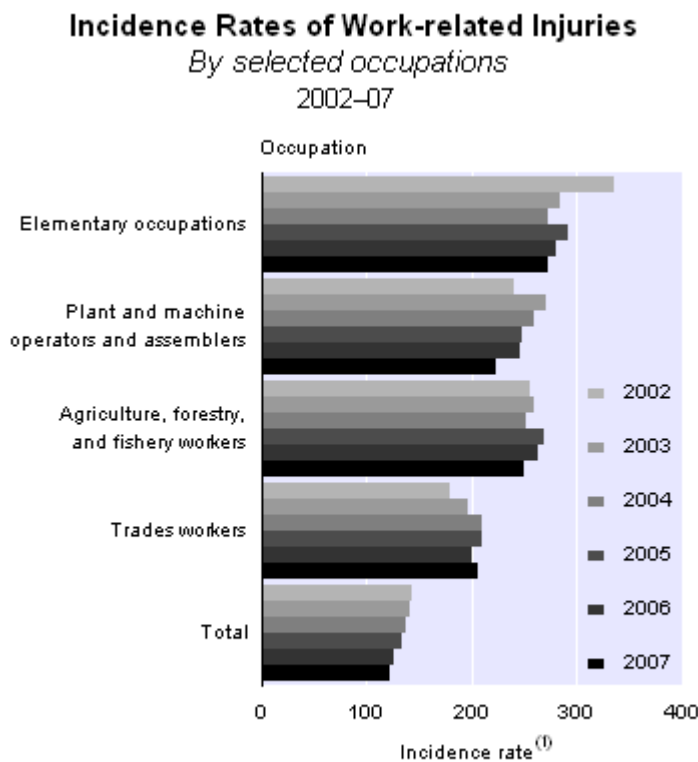
Ten of the fatal claims for 2008 were lodged for agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers. The trades workers, and plant and machine operators and assemblers occupation groups accounted for nine fatal claims each. However, for 21 (33 percent) of the fatal claims, the occupation was not known. The remaining 14 fatal injury claims were distributed across a range of occupations.

Trends by occupation: 2002–07

Between 2002 and 2007, four occupation groups consistently made the highest number of claims: plant and machine operators and assemblers; trades workers; agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers; and workers in elementary occupations. However, the ordering of these groups varied between individual years. The percentage of claims by plant and machine operators and assemblers, and agriculture, forestry, and fishery

workers each remained steady at 17–18 percent and 14–15 percent, respectively. However, the percentage of claims by the elementary occupations decreased slightly from 14 percent in 2002 to 11 percent in 2007. The proportion of claims by trades workers increased over the same period from 13 percent to 19 percent, from fourth-highest in 2002 to highest in 2007.

The elementary occupations group had the highest incidence rate of work-related claims between 2002 and 2007, although the actual rate fluctuated from a high of 337 claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2002 to a low of 273 in both 2004 and 2007. Agriculture, forestry, and fishery workers; plant and machine operators and assemblers; and trades workers had the next-highest rates.



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

Note: The incidence rates for all work-related claims have been included in the graph for comparison purposes.

Employment status

In 2008, employees lodged the majority of work-related claims (188,100 or 84 percent). However, the self-employed had a considerably higher incidence rate (174 claims per 1,000 FTEs) than employees (110 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

The 2008 provisional figures were consistent with the final figures for each year from 2002–07. The proportion of claims lodged by employees increased slightly over this period from 81 percent in 2002 to 84 percent in 2007. In each year, the self-employed had a considerably higher incidence rate than employees.

Claims per person

The 224,900 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in 2008 were made by 200,400 people. Most people (179,900 or 90 percent) lodged only one claim. Around 17,700 people (9 percent) lodged two claims (that is, made claims for two separate injury events). About 1 percent of those who sustained a work-related injury lodged more than two claims.

The statistics in this release are based on one claim for each person for the same injury event. Sometimes more than one claim is recorded in the data for the same person and injury event. Statistics NZ makes every effort possible to identify these claims, and remove the multiple claims per person from the data used to generate the statistics. However, a small proportion of people making more than one claim for the same injury event may still be reported in the figures as making two or more claims.

Environs and locale of the injury

Location/scene of injury

Around 90,900 claims (40 percent of all claims) for work-related injuries in 2008 were made for injuries that occurred in a commercial or service location, and around 60,500 (27 percent) were made for injuries that occurred in an industrial place.

Geographic region

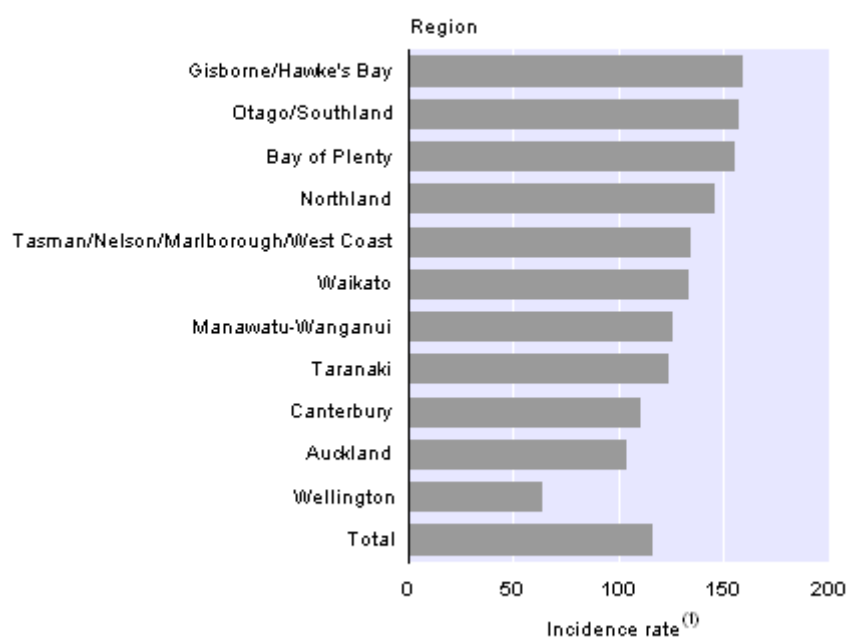
Provisional claims by geographic region: 2008

The Auckland region had the most work-related injury claims in 2008, with 62,200 or 28 percent, considerably higher than the number of claims for any other region. However, the regions with the highest incidence rates were Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Otago/Southland, and Bay of Plenty, which had 160, 157 and 156 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively. Wellington had the lowest rate, with 65 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Injury Claims

By region

2008



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

Note: The 2008 figures are provisional. The incidence rate for all work-related claims has been included in the graph for comparison purposes.

The highest number of entitlement claims also occurred in the 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. The Wellington region had the lowest rate, with nine entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. The highest rates occurred in Otago/Southland and Bay of Plenty, which had 26 and 22 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.

The highest number of claims (18) lodged for work-related fatal injuries occurred in the Canterbury region.

Trends by geographic region: 2002–07

The Auckland region consistently had the highest number of injuries resulting in work-related claims, accounting for just over one-quarter of injuries each year from 2002 to 2006. Canterbury had the next-highest number, accounting for 15 percent of the claims each year.

There were few clear trends in the incidence rates of work-related claims for individual regions between 2002 and 2007. Specifically, no region consistently had the highest incidence rate each year, but the Wellington region had the lowest incidence rate each year. The Auckland and Canterbury regions had the second- and third-lowest incidence rates, respectively, each year.

Industry

All provisional claims by industry: 2008

Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of work-related injury claims in 2008 did not specify the industry of the workplace where the injury occurred. For this reason, the following figures should be interpreted with caution. In particular, the incidence rates reported may be only indicative of the actual incidence rates.

Workers in the manufacturing industry lodged the highest number of claims, with 38,900 work-related claims (17 percent of all claims). Workers in the construction industry, and the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry lodged the second- and third-highest numbers, with 24,900 (11 percent) and 19,600 claims (9 percent), respectively.

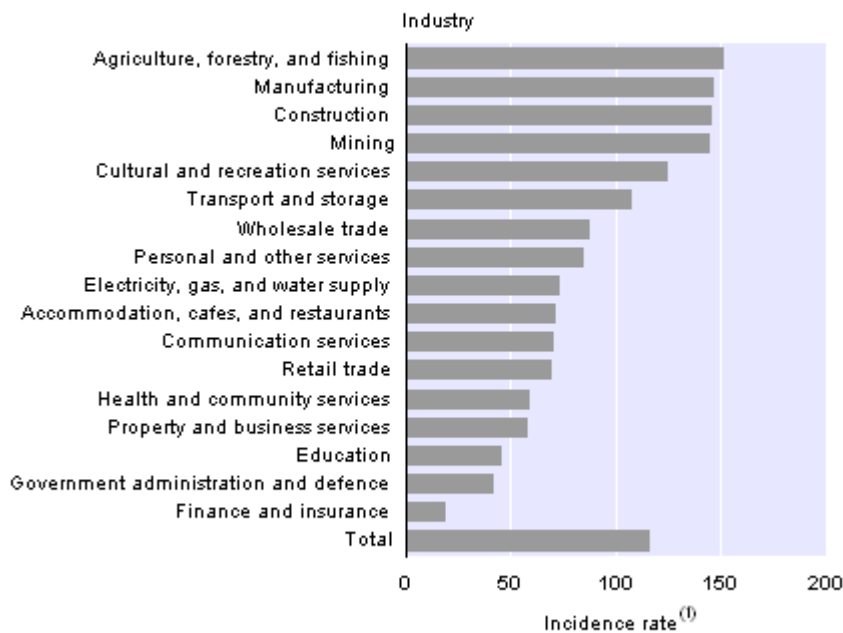
The incidence rate of work-related claims was highest in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry, with 152 claims per 1,000 FTEs. This industry was followed by manufacturing (with 148 claims per 1,000 FTEs), construction (with 146 claims per 1,000 FTEs), and mining (with 145 claims per 1,000 FTEs). The finance and insurance industry had the lowest rate, at 19 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Females made more work-related claims than males in the following industries: accommodation, cafes, and restaurants; finance and insurance; education; and health and community services.

Incidence Rate of Work-related Injury Claims

By industry

2008



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

Note: The 2008 figures are provisional. The incidence rate for all work-related claims has been included in the graph for comparison purposes.

All provisional entitlement claims by industry: 2008

The proportion of entitlement claims where the industry was unknown (10 percent) was less than the proportion for all claims (23 percent), but was still high enough that the following results should be interpreted with caution.

The distribution of entitlement claims across industries was reasonably similar to the distribution for all claims. The highest number of injuries resulting in entitlement claims occurred in the manufacturing industry, which had 7,000 such claims (23 percent of all entitlement claims). The construction industry had the second-highest number (4,500 or 15 percent), followed by the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry (3,500 or 12 percent).

All provisional fatal claims by industry: 2008

The construction, and the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries had the highest number of fatal injury claims, with 13 claims each (21 percent of all fatal injury claims each). These results should be interpreted with caution because the industry was not known for 11 of the fatal claims (17 percent) and only a small proportion of work-related fatalities result in a claim to ACC.

Trends by industry: 2002–07

Because of the high proportion of claims where the industry was unknown, and since the proportion where the industry is unknown has been increasing each year from 2002, trends in industry are not discussed in this commentary.

Injury

Type of injury

In 2008, sprains and strains accounted for 98,800 work-related claims (44 percent of all claims), considerably higher than the number lodged for open wounds (32,200 claims or 14 percent) and contusions (20,200 claims or 9 percent), which were the second and third most common types of injury resulting in a work-related claim.

The majority of injuries (87 percent) were categorised under injury, poisoning, and consequences of external causes, compared to 12 percent categorised as illness or disease. These statistics are based on the year that an injury occurred, and many occupational diseases may not become apparent until many years after the exposure to hazardous substances.

Of all entitlement claims, 11,200 (or 37 percent) were made for sprains and strains. Open wounds, the second most common type of injury resulting in entitlement claims, accounted for 3,000 such claims (10 percent).

In each year from 2002 to 2007, the distribution of the type of injury is similar.

Location of injury by body site

When grouped by body site, in 2008, injuries to the lower torso (categorised as the abdomen, lower back, and pelvis) and injuries to the wrist and hand were the most common sites for work-related claims, accounting for 41,300 and 38,700 claims, respectively (18 and 17 percent of all claims, respectively). Injuries to the head and neck were the third most common site, accounting for 32,800 claims (15 percent).

Outcome of injury

Costs

The *Accident Compensation Corporation Annual Report 2008* (page 89) shows that claims in the workers account (that is, all work-related claims) cost \$470 million in the 2007/08 financial year (\$401 million plus \$69 million handling costs).

Previously, Statistics NZ has released figures on costs for work-related injury claims using the same basis as the other provisional and final figures used in this release. This year, Statistics NZ has decided not to release these figures as the ACC figures provide a better measure of the ongoing costs of work-related injuries. The problems with measuring costs on the same basis as other figures in this release include: some injuries may incur high costs over many years; however, the ongoing costs that occur after the cut-off date for the statistics would not be included in the figures.

Type of payments

Provisionally in 2008, most claims (87 percent) were for medical fees only, that is, they were not entitlement claims. Weekly compensation and rehabilitation payments comprise 7 percent and 6 percent of claims, respectively.

Most claims (80 percent) involved only one or two payment types, with 58 percent and 22 percent of all claims, respectively.

Next release...

Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2009 will be released in October 2010.

Technical notes

Accident

The Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation Act 2001 (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.

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. 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).

Age

Age specifies the age in years, as at the date of injury, and 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).

Body site of injury

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

Body site is classified using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification, Second Edition (ICD-10-

AM). The codes of the classification combine information on the type of injury, illness or disease, and the body site in a detailed, hierarchical manner.

Claims for fatal work-related injuries

Claims for fatal work-related injuries are those 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.

The statistics in this release are not a definitive count of work-related fatalities. First, because not all fatal work-related injuries are the subject of claims to ACC. Secondly, 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 count deaths 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.

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.

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

Claims involving entitlement payments

Claims involving entitlement payments to the injured person (or the deceased's next of kin) include weekly compensation payments, treatment, rehabilitation payments, and death payments. The distinction between claims for medical fees only and claims involving entitlement payments has been used in this release to help separate the minor injuries from the more serious injuries, respectively.

Death payments

Death payments include funeral grants, survivor's grants, childcare payments, and weekly compensation, and are paid to the deceased's next of kin.

Diagnosis of injury and illness/disease

The diagnosis is the type of injury, illness or disease sustained by the worker, and recorded on the claim by the treatment provider.

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

Where more than one diagnosis was provided for the claim, the first was used. 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 (that is, self-employed) or for another person or entity (that is, an employee).

The employment status figures cover all those 'working for wages and salaries', including those working for 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 definition is non-standard for the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), it corresponds closely to the definitions used for workplace accident insurance.

Entitlement payments

See 'Claims involving entitlement payments'.

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 an ACC claim, will list more than one ethnic group. However, only one ethnic group has been included in the claims data used for these statistics, chosen on the basis of the ethnicity recorded in the first column of the data.

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.

There was a break in the series of incidence rates by ethnicity between 2006 and 2007 because of a population rebase in the HLFS (see 'HLFS population rebase and incidence rates by ethnicity' for details). Therefore, trends in these rates will not be discussed in this release.

Statistics NZ has recently reviewed the collection and classification of ethnicity for these injury statistics and plans to change to an improved method for the statistics released in October 2010. The change will start a new series for all work-related injury statistics using ethnicity.

Fatal injury claims

See 'Claims for fatal work-related injuries' above.

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.

The above definition of final figures has been developed for the purposes of this release only.

Full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)

Full-time equivalent employees are 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 are derived from the HLFS. 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.

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 the territorial authority (TA) in which it occurred, and these TAs are grouped into regions of New Zealand. The classification also contains a 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 boundaries. Those TAs have been assigned to the region containing the greatest proportion of their population, on the basis of the 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 NZ'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.

HLFS population rebase and incidence rates by ethnicity

The December 2008 quarter HLFS release included a population rebase which 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. The 2007 final and 2008 provisional incidence rates included in this release have used the rebased FTE figures, but earlier incidence rates have not been revised. For most of the figures, 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 in 2007 from 183,000 before the rebase to 228,000 after the rebase. Using the pre-rebase FTEs, the final incidence rate for Māori in 2007 would have been 157, but, using the rebased FTEs, the incidence rate is 126. 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.

Incidence rate

The incidence rate is the number of work-related claims per 1,000 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 Labour Organization to enable comparisons of work-related injuries between countries.

Industry

Industry is 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.

Because of the high proportion of claims where the industry was unknown (23 percent in 2008), tables and commentary on trends by industry are not included in this release.

Injury

The definition of work-related injuries covered by ACC is determined by legislation, currently the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation (IPRC) Act 2001. The IPRC Act 2001 covers both 'personal injury' and work-related gradual process, disease, or infection.

The 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
- work-related mental injury that is suffered by a person through witnessing a sudden traumatic event at work (added by the IPRC Amendment Act 2008 from 1 October 2008)
- damage to dentures or prostheses that replace a part of the human body.

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 inflammations, 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 2008, provisional figures are as at 31 March 2009.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is 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

Rehabilitation payments include counselling, travel and accommodation for treatment, childcare, attendant care, equipment, and home modifications.

Scene of injury

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

Weekly compensation payments

Weekly compensation payments are payments that ACC will pay to clients who cannot work because of injury, based on 80 percent of weekly income before the injury occurred. The payment compensates for loss of earnings, or loss of potential earning capacity. A spouse, partner or dependant of a deceased claimant may be entitled to

weekly compensation. (ACC now uses the term loss of earnings compensation instead of weekly compensation.)

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.

Standards

Rounding

In this Hot Off the Press, figures for the number of claims (except for the number of fatal claims) have been rounded to the nearest thousand. Figures for the number of fatal claims are unrounded. The rounding may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual items as shown in the tables.

Suppression

Rounded claims figures of less than 100 have been reported as 'figures too small to be expressed'.

Numbers of fatal claims less than four have been expressed as '< 4', and if only one cell in the table has been suppressed in this way, another cell has also been suppressed.

Percentages

All percentages in the Hot Off the Press have been calculated from unrounded data.

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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.

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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.

Trends 2002–07

1. Claims for work-related injuries, 2002–07
2. Claims for work-related injuries, by sex
3. Claims for work-related injuries, by age
4. Claims for work-related injuries, by occupation
5. Claims for work-related injuries, by employment status
6. Claims for work-related injuries, by geographic region
7. Claims for work-related injuries, by type of injury or illness/disease
8. Claims for work-related injuries, by percentage of type of injury or illness/disease

2008 provisional statistics

1. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2008, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by occupation and sex
10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2008, by occupation and ethnic group
13. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by employment status and sex
14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by location/scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
18. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by geographic region
19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2008, by industry

22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
23. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2008, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
24. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by body site of injury and sex
25. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by number of types of payment per claim
26. Claims for work-related injuries in 2008, by type of payment

2007 final statistics

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 in 2007, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2007, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2007, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2007, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2007, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2007, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2007, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by occupation and sex
10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2007, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2007, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2007, by occupation and ethnic group
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14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by location/scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2007, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
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19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2007, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2007, by industry
22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2007, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
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