

# CONSTRUCTION



The Construction industry employed 1.01 million people in 2011–12 (9% of the Australian workforce). Within this industry 73% of workers were classed as employees and were covered by workers' compensation. Employers in this industry paid 2.3% of payroll in 2011–12 to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees.

## FATALITIES

Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, 211 Construction workers died from work-related injuries. The total number of deaths equates to 4.34 fatalities per 100 000 workers, which is nearly twice the national rate of 2.29.

- *Falls from height* accounted for 51 fatalities. Of these, 18 involved falls from buildings, 15 involved ladders and 8 involved scaffolding.
- *Vehicle incident* resulted in 34 fatalities. In 21 of the incidents the worker was in a car and 10 were in a truck.
- *Being hit by moving objects* and *Being hit by falling objects* accounted for 29 deaths each. More than half of the deaths caused by *Being hit by moving objects* involved road transport (16).

## SERIOUS CLAIMS

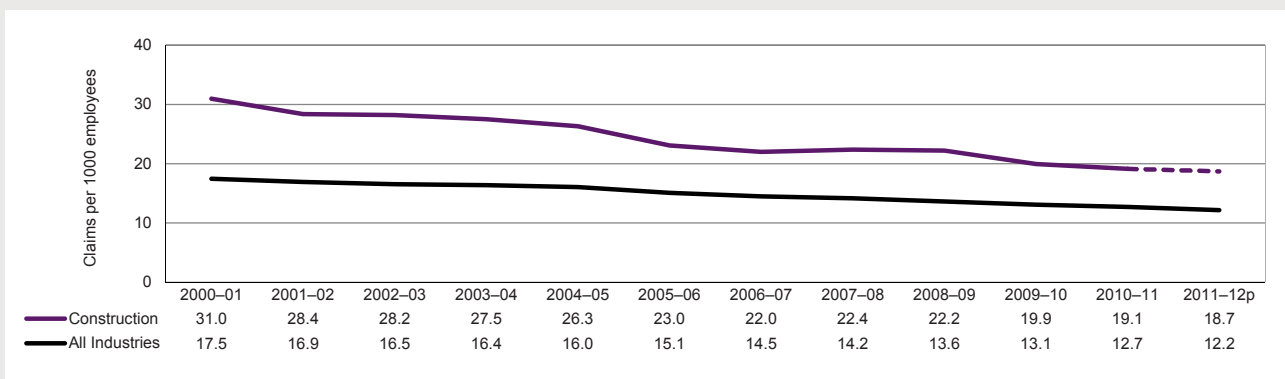
The preliminary data for 2011–12 show there were 13 735 successful workers' compensation claims for serious injury or illness in the Construction industry. Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, the Construction industry accounted for 11% of all serious workers' compensation claims. On average there were 39 claims each day from employees who required one or more weeks off work because of work-related injury or disease.

Figure 1 shows that the incidence rate of serious claims in this industry has fallen 38% from 31.0 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 19.1 in 2010–11. However, this rate remains higher than the rate for all industries (12.7) and was the fifth highest of all industries in 2010–11.

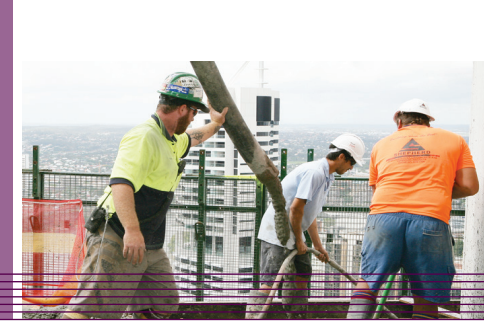
Between 2007–08 and 2011–12:

- *Body stressing* accounted for 34% of claims—more than half of these were due to muscular stress while handling a range of materials, tools and other equipment.
- *Falls, trips and slips of a person* accounted for 26% of claims and almost all of these involved *Falls from height* or *Falls on same level*.
- *Being hit by moving objects* accounted for a further 16% of claims—many of these involved being hit by falling or moving materials and equipment.

Figure 1: Serious claims: Incidence rates by year



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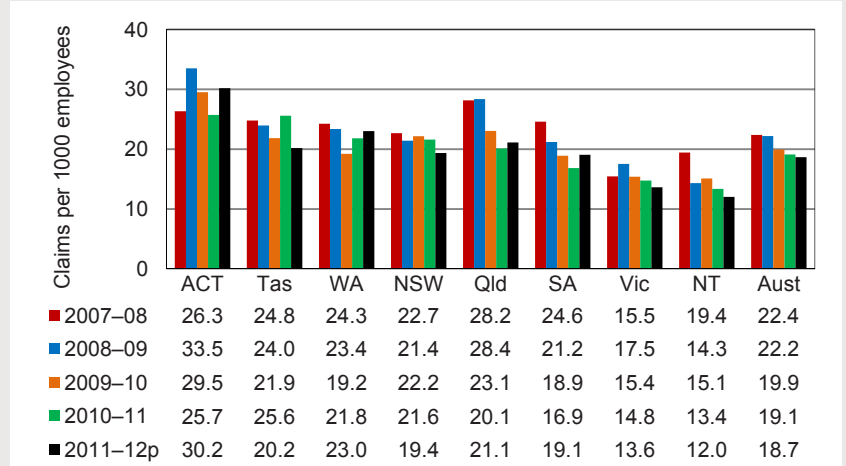
## SERIOUS CLAIMS BY JURISDICTION

Figure 2 shows the incidence rates of serious claims in the Construction industry by jurisdiction.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 all jurisdictions except Tasmania recorded decreases in incidence rates. The largest decreases were recorded by South Australia (29%) and the Northern Territory (both 31%) followed by Queensland (29%) and Western Australia (10%). Tasmania recorded a small increase (3%).

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that incidence rates across Australia ranged from 12.0 claims per 1000 employees in the Northern Territory to 30.2 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Figure 2: Serious claims: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



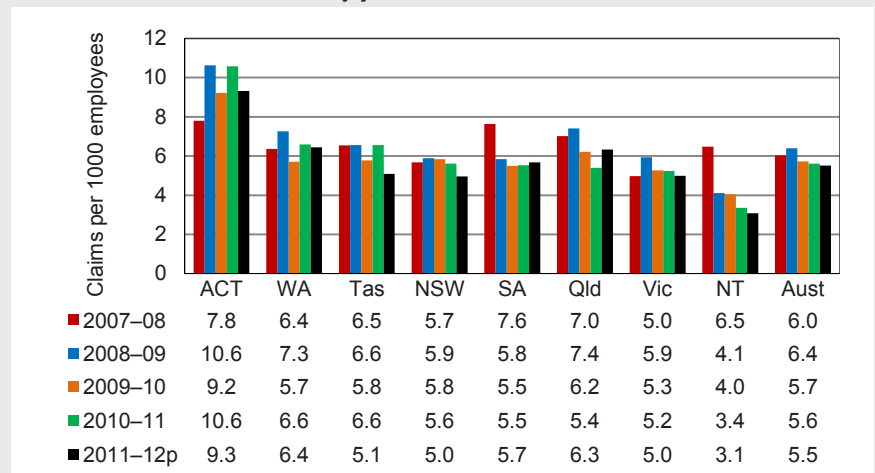
## CLAIMS INVOLVING 12 OR MORE WEEKS TIME LOST BY JURISDICTION

Figure 3 shows the incidence rates of claims involving 12 or more weeks off work by jurisdiction. Preliminary data for 2011–12 show 30% of serious claims had compensation paid for 12 or more weeks off work.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 the Northern Territory recorded the largest decrease in incidence rates of long term claims (48%) followed by South Australia (28%). The Australian Capital Territory recorded a 36% increase in the incidence rate of long term claims.

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest incidence rate with 9.3 long term claims per 1000 employees.

Figure 3: Claims involving twelve or more weeks off work: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



Claims data were extracted from the National Data Set (NDS) for Compensation-based Statistics. The data presented here are restricted to accepted claims for serious injury and disease. Serious claims include fatalities, claims for permanent disability and claims for conditions that involve one or more weeks of time lost from work. Serious claims do not include those involving journeys to and from work. The 2011–12 data are preliminary and expected to rise. As such they have not been used to determine the percentage change in rates over time. More information on this industry can be found at [swa.gov.au](http://swa.gov.au).

Information on fatalities is extracted from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities database. Annual fatalities reports can be found at [swa.gov.au](http://swa.gov.au).

