

# Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2010

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## Key facts

Provisional data show that in 2010:

- 209,700 claims in total were made for work-related injuries; these claims were made by 187,300 people.
- 11 percent of all claims were for entitlements (claims in which compensation and support beyond medical fees were required).
- Agriculture and fishery workers were the occupation group with the highest incidence rate, at 241 work-related injury claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs).
- The regions with the highest incidence of work-related injuries were Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Northland, and Bay of Plenty.
- The Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast region had the most claims lodged for fatal work-related injuries, due to the Pike River mining explosion.
- Sprains and strains were the most common type of work-related injury claim, accounting for 90,600 claims (43 percent).

Trends from final data for 2002–09 show that:

- The total number of claims has continued to fall each year since 2006 (to 215,700 in 2009).
- The number of claims made by older workers is rising steadily each year, from 6,800 claims in 2002 to 11,800 in 2009.

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## Commentary

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The figures presented in this information release 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 (where compensation and support for returning to independence may have been required) and claims for fatal injuries.

The data in this information release are not a definitive count of all work-related injuries, because not all result in a claim to ACC. This commentary describes both the number of claims and the incidence rate (measured as the number of claims per 1,000 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs)). See the [Definitions](#) section for more information.

The figures released for the first time are provisional statistics for 2010 and final statistics for 2009 (both as reported by 31 March 2011). This commentary focuses on the provisional statistics for 2010, with trends in work-related injuries for 2002–09 at the end.

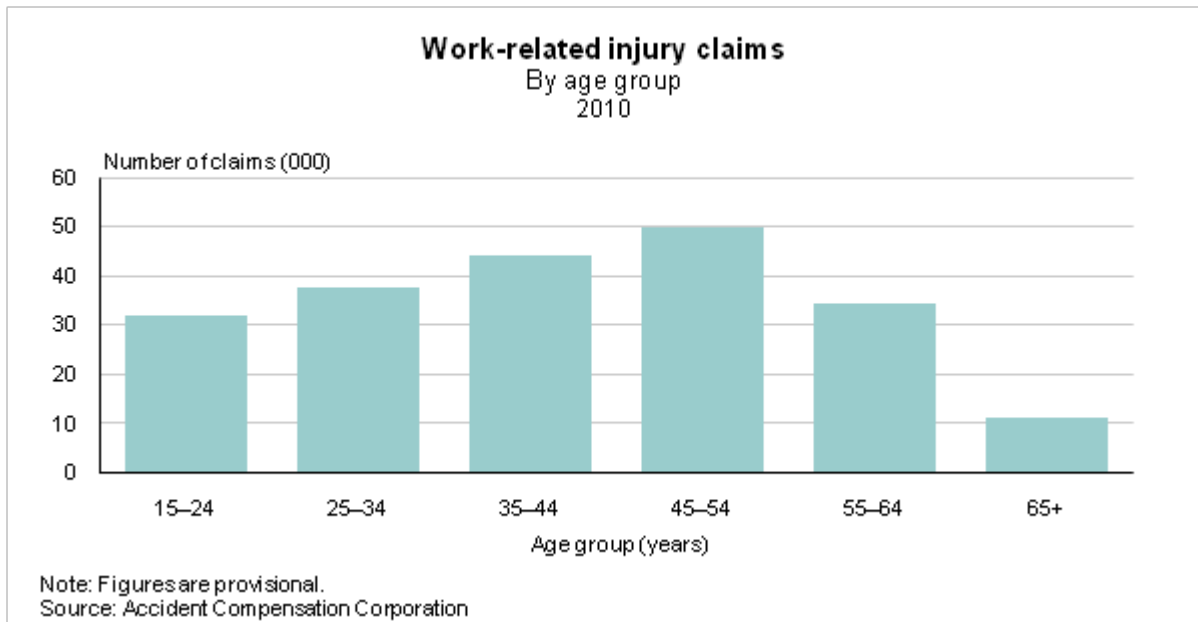
### **Over 200,000 work-related injury claims in 2010**

Provisionally, there were 209,700 claims for work-related injuries that occurred in the 2010 calendar year. The provisional incidence rate was 109 work-related injury claims per 1,000 FTEs. Of all claims, 11 percent (24,000) resulted in entitlement payments. This includes payments for weekly compensation and rehabilitation necessary for returning to independence. The 209,700 claims were made by 187,300 people. Most people (90 percent) lodged only one claim. Most claims (89 percent) were for medical fees only.

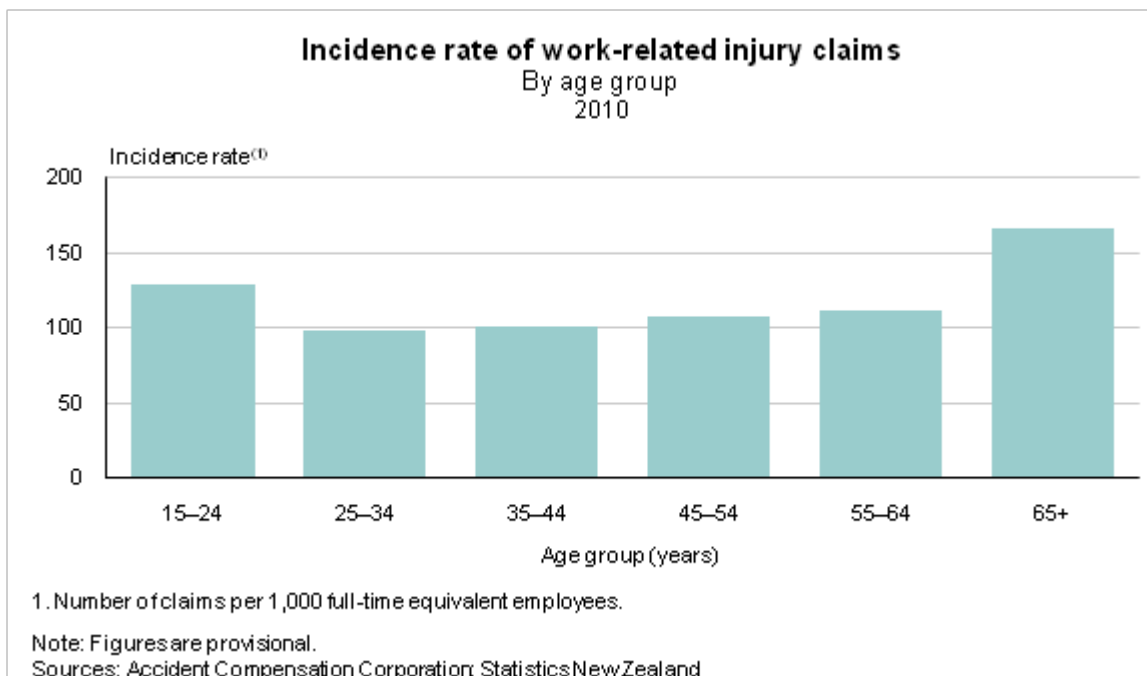
### **Highest injury claim rates for males and older workers**

**Provisional claims by age and sex:** In 2010, 150,800 work-related injury claims were for males. This is equivalent to 72 percent of all claims. The incidence rate for males (139 claims per 1,000 FTEs) was almost twice as high as for females (71 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

The graph below shows that in 2010, workers aged 45–54 years made more claims for work-related injuries than any other age group, with 49,700 claims. Workers aged 65 and over (65+) made the least number of claims, with 11,300 claims. This is because there are a small number of workers in this age group.



The incidence rates across the age groups show a different pattern (see graph below). Although in 2010 workers aged 65+ made only 5 percent of all claims, they had the highest incidence rate (166 claims per 1,000 FTEs). Workers aged 15–24 years had the second-highest incidence rate, with 129 claims per 1,000 FTEs.



**Provisional entitlement claims by age and sex:** Three quarters of entitlement claims in 2010 were for males. The incidence rate for males (17 claims per 1,000 FTEs) was more than double that for females (7 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

Similar to the pattern for all work-related claims, in 2010 workers aged 45–54 years lodged more entitlement claims than any other age group, with 5,700 claims. This was 24 percent of all entitlement claims. Workers aged 65+ made the fewest entitlement claims, with 2,000 claims (8 percent).

The 65+ age group had an incidence rate of 29 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs in 2010. This was much higher than the rate for the other age groups, which varied between 10 and 15 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs.

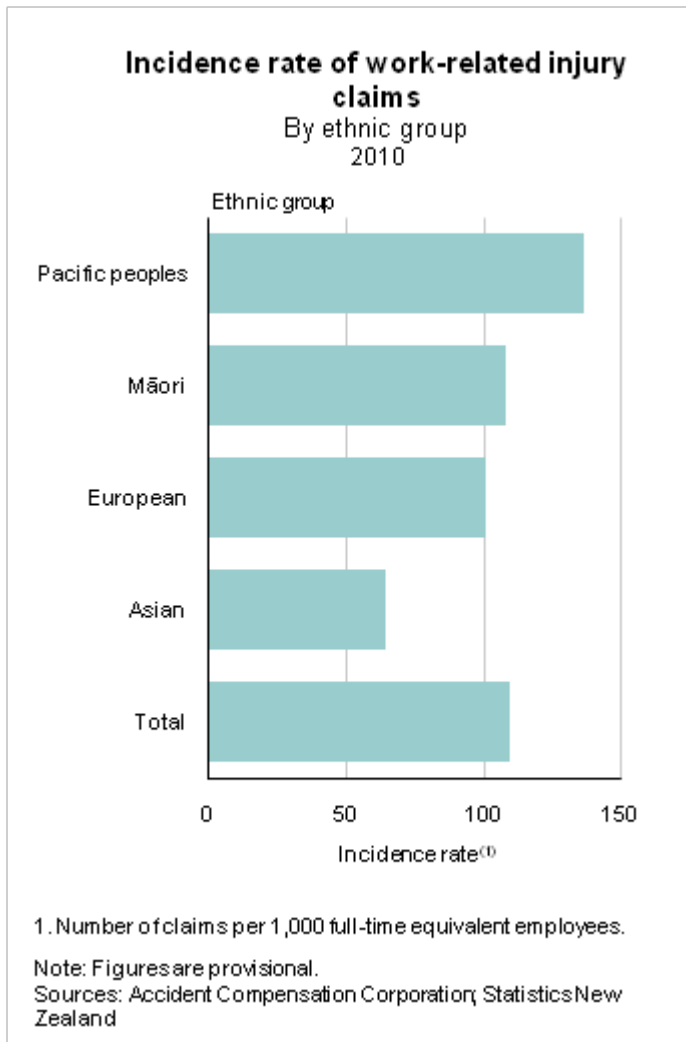
The younger age groups (15–44 years) made up a smaller percentage of all entitlement claims than all claims. In contrast, people in the older age group (55 years and over) made up a slightly larger proportion of entitlement claims than all claims. For example, the 65+ age group comprised 5 percent of all claims; however they comprised 8 percent of all entitlement claims.

Entitlement claims made up a larger proportion of total claims as age increased. For example, entitlement claims for workers aged 15–24 years made up 10 percent of all claims in their age group, while entitlement claims for workers aged 65+ comprised 17 percent of all claims in their age group.

### **Pacific peoples have highest incidence rate of injury claims in 2010**

Pacific peoples had the highest incidence rate of 136 claims per 1,000 FTEs, compared with 108 for Māori, and 101 for European people. Asian people had the lowest incidence rate of 64 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Provisionally in 2010, Europeans lodged 149,200 claims for work-related injuries. This figure represents 71 percent of all work-related claims. Māori lodged 11 percent of claims (23,700 claims) and Pacific peoples and Asian people each lodged 6 percent of claims (12,500 claims and 12,200 claims each, respectively).



For most of the ethnic groups, the incidence rates were highest for agriculture and fishery workers. The only exception was Māori; the highest incidence rate in this ethnic group was for workers in elementary occupations (eg labourers, refuse collectors, cleaners).

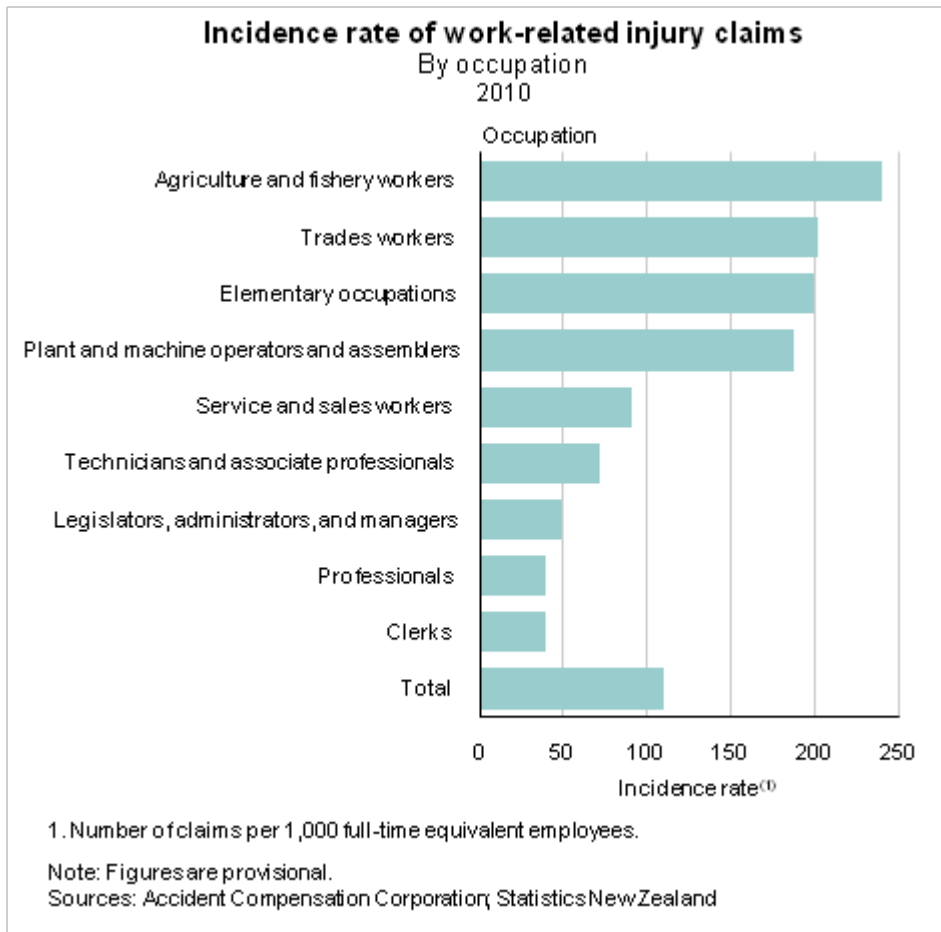
### Four occupation groups dominate injury claim rates

**Provisional claims by occupation:** Occupation describes the injured person's job at the time of their injury. In 2010, trades workers lodged the most claims for work-related injuries (37,500 claims), with 18 percent of all claims. This occupation includes building trades workers, metal and machinery trades workers, and precision trades workers. The second- and third-highest numbers of claims were lodged by agriculture and fishery workers (31,100 claims), and plant and machine operators and assemblers (30,400 claims). These two occupations each comprised 15 percent of total injury claims.

The graph below shows that the highest incidence rates of work-related injury claims were for:

- agriculture and fishery workers (241 claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- trades workers (202 claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- elementary occupations (200 claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- plant and machine operators and assemblers (188 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

The incidence rates for each of these four occupation groups were more than double the rates for any other occupation. The lowest rates were for the clerks and professionals occupation groups, which had 39 and 40 claims per 1,000 FTEs, respectively.



**Provisional entitlement claims by occupation:** In 2010, the occupation groups with the highest overall incidence rates also had the highest rates for entitlement claims. Plant and machine operators and assemblers had the highest incidence rate, at 31 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. Agriculture and fishery workers, and workers in elementary occupations both followed closely with an incidence rate of 28 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. Trades workers had an incidence rate of 21 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Plant and machine operators and assemblers also had the highest proportion of claims resulting in entitlement payments (16 percent). This was higher than the overall proportion of claims resulting in entitlement payments (11 percent).

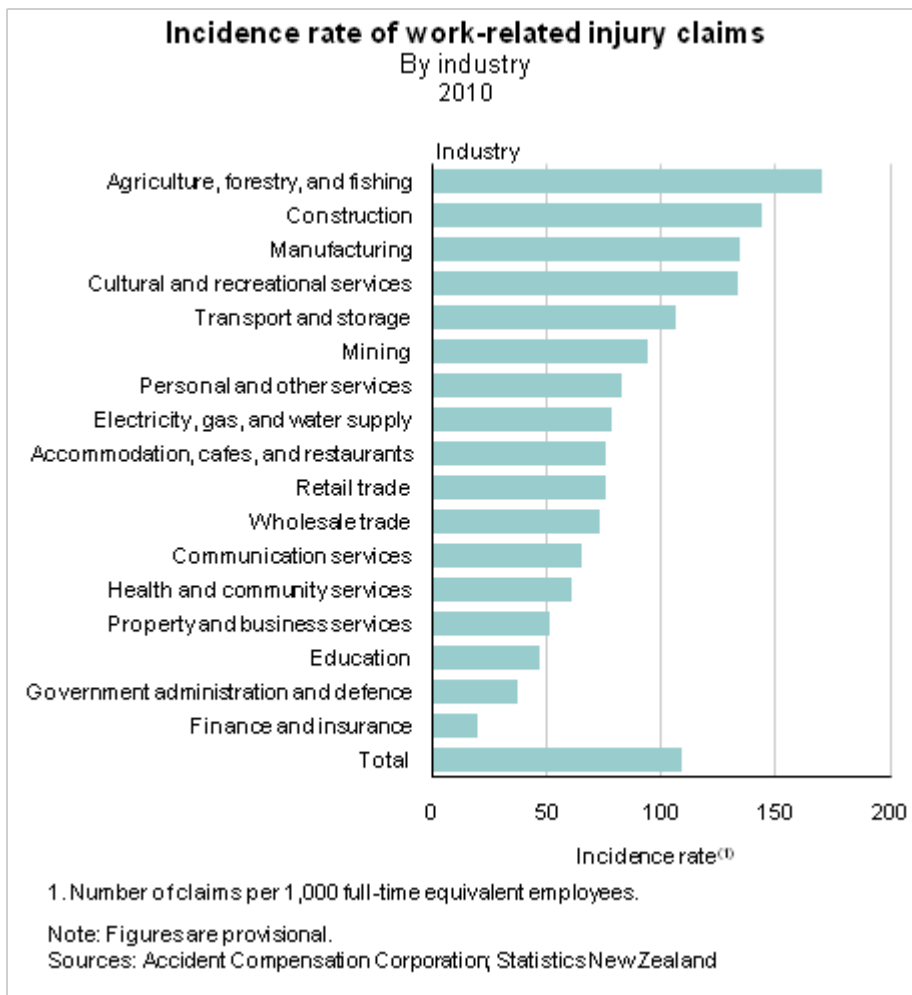
### Agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry has highest claim rate

**Provisional injury claims by industry:** Industry describes the main type of activity carried out by the organisation that the injured person worked for. Workers in the manufacturing industry lodged the highest number of claims, with 32,700 work-related claims (16 percent of all claims). This was followed by claims lodged by workers in the construction industry (23,900 claims), and the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry (22,300 claims). These two industries each had 11 percent of all claims.

The incidence rate of work-related claims was highest in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry, with 170 claims per 1,000 FTEs. This was followed by construction, manufacturing, and cultural and recreational services. The finance and insurance industry had the lowest rate, at 20 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

For the majority of industries, males made more claims than females. However, in some industries that tend to be female-dominated, women made more work-related claims than men. These industries include accommodation, cafes, and restaurants; finance and insurance; education; and health and community services.

The industry of the workplace was not specified for 20 percent of work-related injury claims in 2010. For this reason, the figures for claims by industry should be interpreted with caution.



**Provisional entitlement claims by industry:** The distribution of entitlement claims across industries was similar to the distribution of all claims. The highest incidence rates of work-related entitlement claims were for the:

- agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry (26 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- construction industry (21 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- manufacturing industry (20 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs).

The proportion of entitlement claims in which the industry was unknown (9 percent) was less than the proportion for all claims (20 percent), but was still high enough that the results should be interpreted with caution.

### **Biggest cities have lowest injury claim rates**

Provisionally, the Auckland region had the most work-related injury claims in 2010, with 59,800 claims. This reflects the size of the region's population. However, the graph below shows that Auckland's incidence rate was third-lowest (103 claims per 1,000 FTEs). The regions with the highest incidence rates were:

- Gisborne/Hawke's Bay (153 claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- Northland (147 claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- Bay of Plenty (140 claims per 1,000 FTEs).

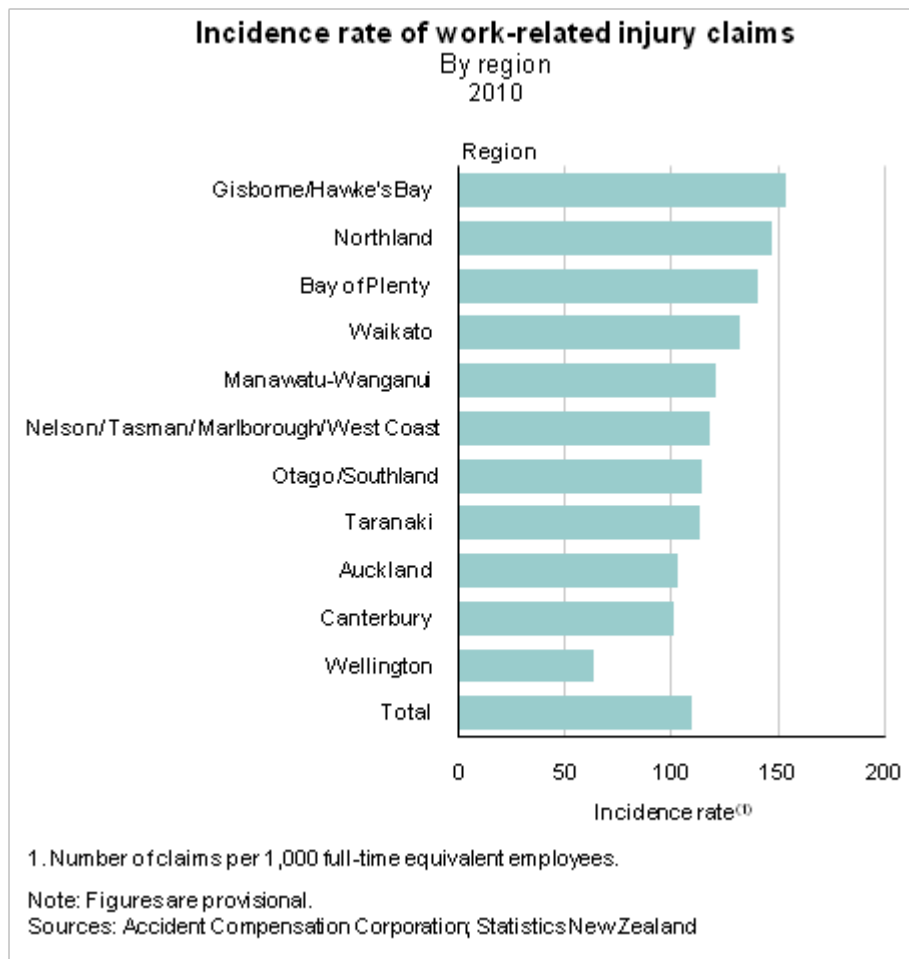
Wellington had the lowest rate, with 63 claims per 1,000 FTEs.

Auckland also had the highest number of entitlement claims (5,500), accounting for 23 percent of the total entitlement claims. However, this region had the second-lowest incidence rate, at 10 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs. The highest rates of entitlement claims occurred in:

- Northland (18 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- Otago/Southland (17 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs)
- Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast (17 entitlement claims per 1,000 FTEs).

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





## Sprains and strains leading type of claims

**Type of injury:** Provisionally, the most common type of claim for work-related injuries in 2010 was sprains and strains, which accounted for 90,600 claims (43 percent). More than one-third of entitlement claims were also for sprains and strains. The number of claims lodged for sprains and strains was considerably higher than the number for open wounds and contusions, which were the second and third most common types of injury resulting in a work-related claim.

The majority of work-related claims were in the category 'injury, poisoning, and consequences of external causes' (88 percent), and 11 percent were categorised as an illness or disease. Note that 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. As such, the number of claims for work-related illnesses and diseases underestimates the true count of work-related illnesses and diseases incurred in any one year.

**Body site of injury:** Provisional 2010 figures show that the most common body sites for work-related injury claims were:

- lower torso (abdomen, lower back, lumbar spine, and pelvis), at 38,000 claims (18 percent of all claims)
- wrist and hand, at 35,700 claims (17 percent of all claims)
- head and neck, at 29,900 claims (14 percent of all claims).

## Pike River mining explosion affects fatal claim figures

Overall, the provisional number of claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010 was 82. Males made up 95 percent of these claims. Workers aged 65+ accounted for 23 percent of all fatal claims. The mining and construction industries jointly had the highest number of work-related fatal claims, with 13 claims each. The agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry followed closely with 12 fatal claims. However, information on industry should be interpreted with caution because the industry was not known for 24 of the fatal claims (29 percent).

## Pike River injury claims

The explosion in the Pike River coalmine on 19 November 2010 resulted in the deaths of 29 miners on the West Coast of the South Island. This affected the number of claims for fatal work-related injuries in the provisional 2010 data. Note that not all of the claims had costs recorded against them by the end of March 2011, and as a result not all are included in this release. The effects of the explosion on the provisional data for fatal injuries are mainly seen when looking at occupation and geographic region. Provisionally, in 2010 there were:

- 30 fatal claims for plant and machine operators and assemblers, compared with 9 claims in the 2009 provisional data
- 23 claims made in the Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast region, compared with 6 in the provisional 2009 data.

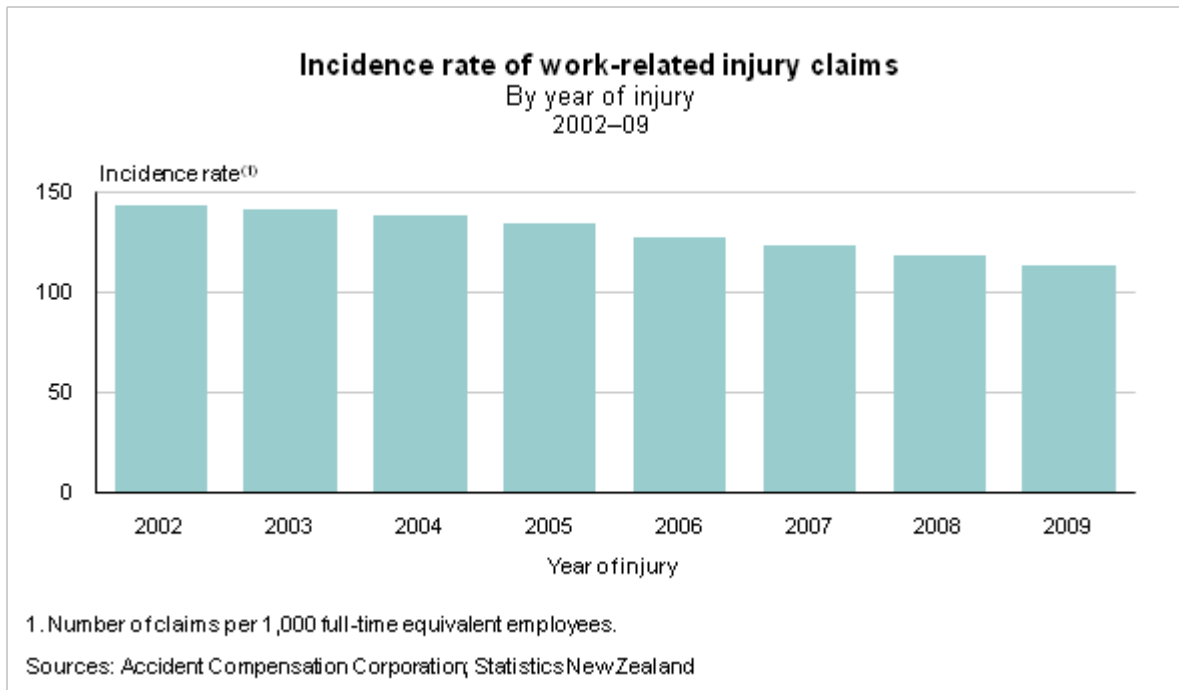
## Trends show that total number of claims is falling

Although the final number of work-related injury claims increased slightly each year from 2002 to 2005, from 2006 the number of claims has continued to fall each year (to 215,700 in 2009).



The final incidence rate has decreased each year since 2002, from 143 work-related claims per 1,000 FTEs to 114 in 2009 (see graph below).

The number of claims involving entitlement payments has fluctuated with no clear pattern between 2002 and 2009, with a lowest value of 29,600 (in 2009) and a highest value of 34,900 (in both 2005 and 2006). Each year entitlement claims represented 13–15 percent of all claims.



### **Males consistently dominate claim figures**

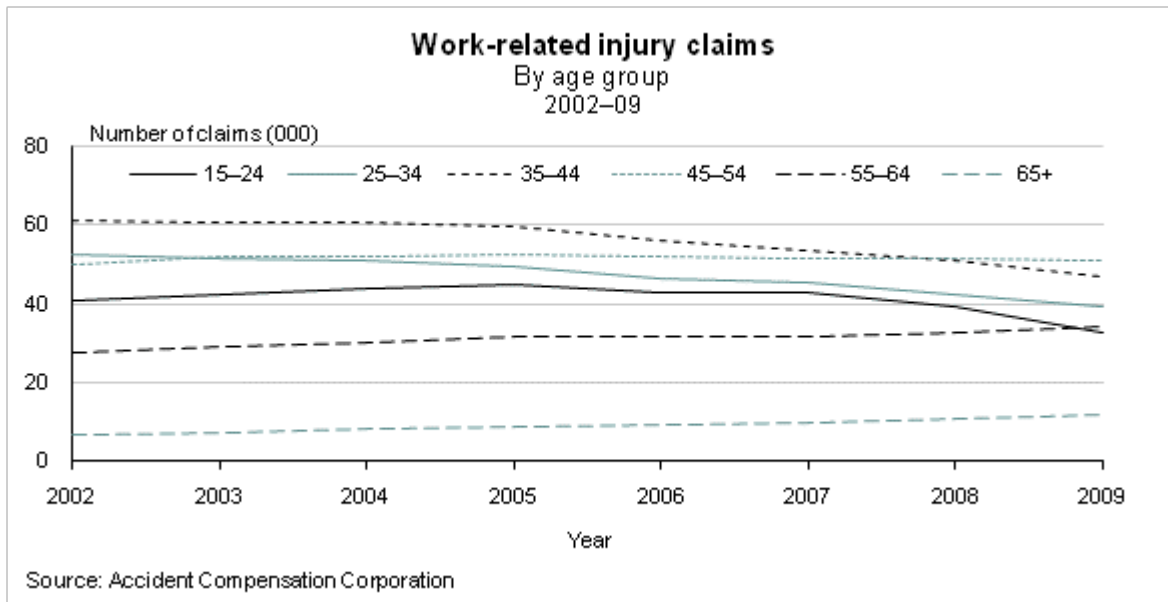
Males consistently accounted for just under three-quarters (71 to 74 percent) of all work-related claims each year between 2002 and 2009.

In each year, males also had a higher incidence rate than females, but the rate for males decreased from 183 claims per 1,000 FTEs (in 2002) to 144 (in 2009). The rate for females has also decreased over this period from 88 claims per 1,000 FTEs (in 2002) to 75 (in 2009).

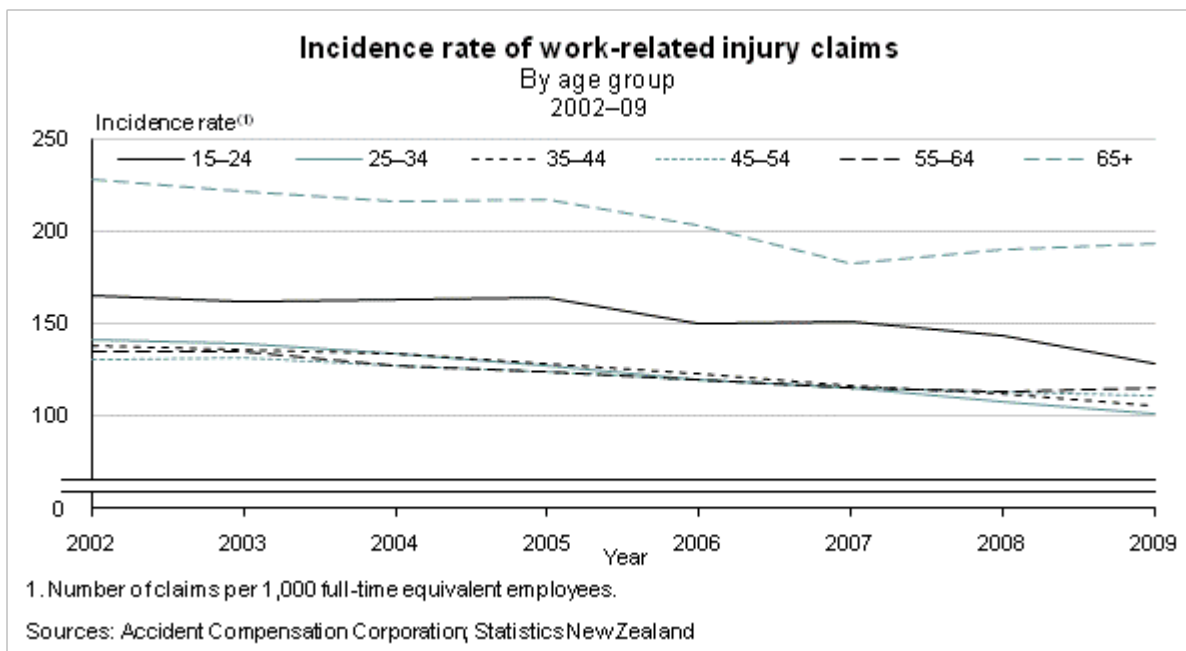
### **Older workers making more claims each year**

Between 2002 and 2007, workers aged 35–44 years consistently made the most claims each year (see graph below). This trend changed in 2008, when the 45–54-year age group took over as the leading age group making claims. This trend continued in 2009.

While workers aged 65+ remain the lowest claimants overall (comprising 3 to 5 percent of all claims), the number of claims lodged by this age group has increased, rising steadily from 6,800 claims in 2002 to 11,800 in 2009. This reflects New Zealand’s ageing population and larger numbers of people aged 65+ remaining in the workforce.



The graph below shows a gradual decline in the incidence rate of claims for all age groups since 2002. However those aged 65+ consistently have the highest claim rate, followed by workers aged 15–24 years.

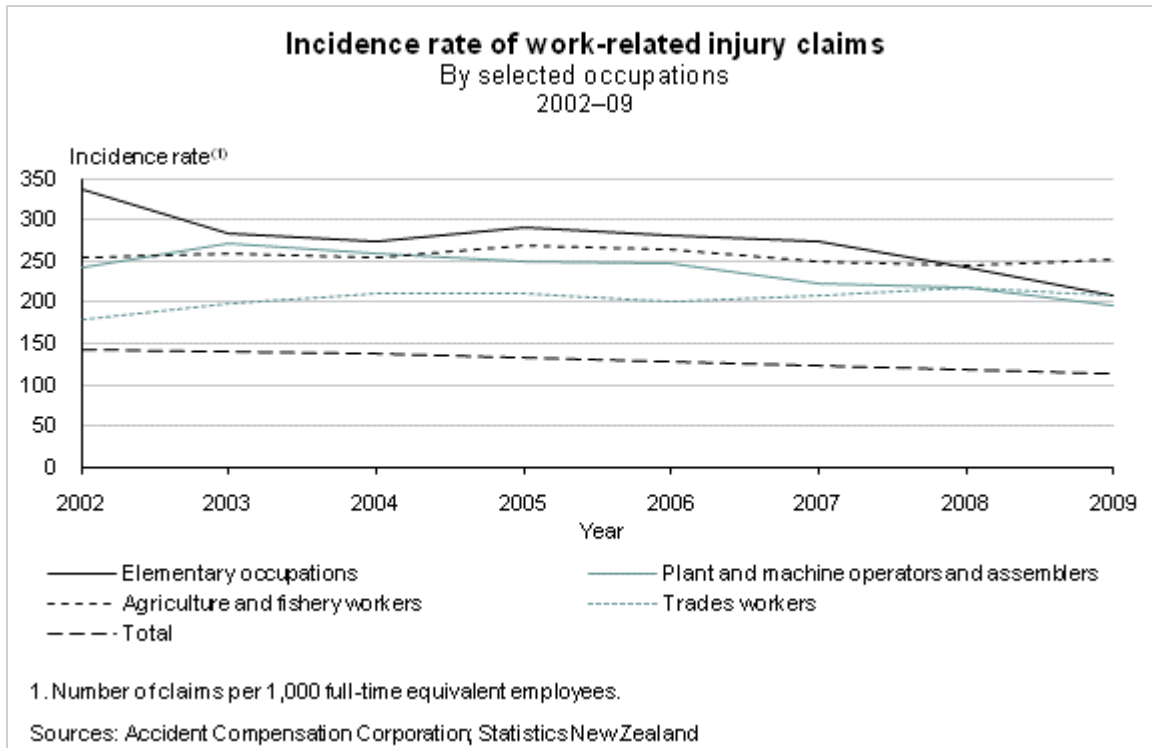


### Claim rates for elementary occupations fall

Between 2002 and 2009, workers within five occupation groups consistently made the highest number of claims: plant and machine operators and assemblers; trades workers; agriculture and fishery workers; service and sales workers; and workers in elementary occupations (such as labourers, refuse collectors, and cleaners). However, the ordering of these groups varied between individual years.

The elementary occupations group had the highest incidence rate of work-related claims between 2002 and 2007. However, in 2008 agriculture and fishery workers became the group with the highest rate; the incidence rate for this group has continued to rise in 2009 (see graph below).

The large amount of workers in sales and service occupations means the incidence rate of work related claims per 1,000 FTEs for this group is not as high year by year as for the other leading claim groups.



For more detailed data see the Excel tables under 'Downloads'.

## Definitions

### About Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims

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

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

### Definition of terms

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

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

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

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

**Age:** specifies the injured person’s age in years, as at the date of injury, and is calculated from their 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:** the part or parts of the body injured in the accident.

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

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

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

**Claims for medical fees only:** claims for which ACC has paid a health professional for medical treatment or service. About 85 percent of all ACC claims are in this category and often involve only one or two visits to a health professional.

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

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

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

**Diagnosis of injury and illness/disease:** the type of injury, illness or disease sustained by the worker, and recorded on the ACC claim by the treatment provider. Diagnosis is classified using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Australian Modification, Second Edition (ICD-10-AM).

For this release, where more than one diagnosis was provided the first diagnosis listed was used. Diagnoses are aggregated into three groups based on National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance (NDS-IS) recommendations (see the [Data quality](#) section for more detail).

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

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

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

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

- a common name
- one or more elements of common culture which may include religion, customs, or language
- unique community of interests, feelings, and actions
- a shared sense of common origins
- a common geographic origin.

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

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

**Final figures:** for the purposes of this release claims are included in the tables under the calendar year in which the injury occurred. For final figures, claims are only included if some costs are recorded within 15 months of the end of the calendar year in which the injury occurred. This allows for a consistent comparison between the years. Although details of claims may change after this time (eg the claimant may die), the statistics in this release will not be updated to reflect these changes.

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

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

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

The regions reported in this release mostly align with regional council boundaries, but in a few cases TAs straddle these council boundaries. 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 (HLFS):** 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
- people living on offshore islands (except Waiheke Island).

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

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

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

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

**Independence allowance:** a quarterly payment made to compensate a claimant for any long-term impairment they have as a result of an injury. This payment covers injuries that occurred before 1 April 2002, except for gradual process, sensitive, or medical treatment claims where different time-limits relating to the 2002 cut-off period apply. The injured person must have a permanent impairment assessment resulting in an impairment level of 10 percent or more to be eligible for the independence allowance (see [Permanent impairment assessment](#) for more details).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Provisional figures:** all claims are included under the calendar year when the injury occurred. For provisional figures, claims are only included if some costs are recorded within three months of the end of the calendar year in which the injury occurred. For 2010, provisional figures are at 31 March 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Related links**

### **Upcoming releases**

*Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2011* will be released in October 2012.

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

### **Past releases**

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

### **Related information**

The [Injury Information Portal](#) provides links to published data reports, information about injury data collected in New Zealand, reports and articles about injury data, and to websites of other agencies that produce injury information.

## Data quality

### Period-specific information

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

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

### General information

This section has information on data that does not change between releases.

- [Data sources](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [Consistency with other periods or datasets](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)

## Period-specific information

### Reference period

This release contains provisional statistics for work-related claims for injuries in the 2010 calendar year. It also includes final statistics for injuries in the 2009 calendar year. Both of these are as reported by 31 March 2011.

### Changes since the last release

#### Age

Information releases in previous years included data on work-related injuries for people aged 14 years and under. In this year's release these have now been grouped into 'other and unspecified'. This is due to uncertainty about the ages recorded for people in this group. In previous years, claims by people aged 14 years and under comprised less than 1 percent of total claims.

FTE figures are not available for the 14 and under age group because the HLFS excludes those aged below 15 years. As such, incidence rates cannot be calculated for this group.

#### Employment status

The data for employment status includes some responses outside the scope of the code set for this variable. In previous years these responses were grouped into the 'employee' category. In this release these responses have been separated into another category called 'other'.

This has little effect on the rates and percentages calculated from this data. Separating these figures from the rest of the data allows a measure of data quality that can be monitored over time.

## General information

### Data sources

Data on claims for work-related injuries is from the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). All claims are included under the calendar year when the injury occurred. For provisional figures, claims are only included if some costs are recorded within three months of the end of the 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 in which the injury occurred. This allows for a consistent comparison between the years. Although details of claims may change after this time (for example the claimant may die), the statistics in this release will not be updated to reflect these changes.

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

### Accuracy of the data

#### Reporting ethnicity for 2002–08

Ethnic group reporting for the number of claims from 2002 to 2008 uses a single ethnic group for each claim.

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. This is chosen on the basis of the ethnicity recorded in the first column of the data.

For the reporting of full-time equivalent employee (FTE) numbers by ethnic group, the HLFS allows 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 people' 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 ethnicities 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.

#### Ethnic group reporting for 2009 onwards

Ethnic group reporting for 2009 and 2010 uses 'total response' for both the number of claims and the number of FTEs.

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

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

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

The 2009 and 2010 figures on ethnic group are not comparable with the figures produced in previous releases. Tables and commentary on trends by ethnic group are not reported in this release, because of the break in the time series.

### **Claims involving treatment at hospital accident and emergency departments**

Treatment provided at a hospital accident and emergency department (A&E) is bulk funded by ACC directly to the district health boards (DHBs) and is not recorded against individual claims. Claims involving treatment provided at A&E only are not included in this release.

### **Industry**

Because of the high proportion of claims in which the industry was not specified (provisionally 20 percent in 2010), tables and commentary on trends by industry are not included in this release. Figures on injuries by industry should be interpreted with care.

### **Full-time equivalent employees**

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

### **HLFS population rebase and incidence rates by ethnicity**

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

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

### **Rounding and suppression**

Figures for the number of claims (except for the number of fatal claims) have been rounded to the nearest hundred. The rounding may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual items as shown in the tables. Rounded claims figures of less than 100 have been suppressed.

Figures for the number of fatal claims are unrounded. Numbers of fatal claims less than four have been suppressed. If only one cell in the table has been suppressed in this way, another cell has also been suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

## Percentages

All percentages in the information release are calculated from unrounded data.

## Consistency with other periods or datasets

### Comparability with the injury chartbooks

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

- The chartbooks contain high level indicators, while the information release contains a more detailed breakdown of the data.
- The ACC data used in the chartbooks is updated each year, so each new chartbook supersedes the previous one. In contrast, although some of the data for each year's information release is updated to present 'final' data, each year's information release stands alone.
- The data is presented differently in each publication. The information release separates the data into all claims, entitlement claims, and fatal claims. The chartbooks present indicators based on a calculated level of severity.
- The chartbooks present data for fatal injuries as three-year moving averages, due to the small numbers. The information release publishes fatal data for single years, but suppresses small numbers (see [Rounding and suppression](#) above).

See [Chartbooks of the New Zealand Injury Prevention Strategy](#) for more information and a link to the latest chartbooks.

## Interpreting the data

### Counting claims vs counting injuries

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

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

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 calendar year in which the injury took place are included in the totals for 'final' estimates. For provisional estimates of work-related fatalities, deaths occurring within three months of the end of the calendar year the injury took place are counted (see [Final figures](#) and [Provisional figures](#) for more detail).

## **Classifications used in the information release**

### **Body site of injury**

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.

### **Industry**

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

### **Injury diagnoses: National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance (NDS-IS)**

This is an Australian standard that describes data items and classifications designed to support injury surveillance. It provides a hierarchy of three levels of data collection and is intended for use in a wide range of health settings. The NDS-IS has comparability with the International Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD-10).

For this release injury diagnoses are aggregated into three groups based on recommendations from the NDS-IS. These include:

- injury, poisoning, and other consequences of external causes
- illness and disease
- other and undefined.

### **Occupation**

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

### **Liability**

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## Tables

The following tables are included with this release. They are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box of *Injury Statistics – Work-related Claims: 2010* on the Statistics NZ website.

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 2002–09

1. Claims for work-related injuries, by sex, 2002–09
2. Claims for work-related injuries, 2002–09
3. Claims for work-related injuries, by age, 2002–09
4. Claims for work-related injuries, by occupation, 2002–09
5. Claims for work-related injuries, by employment status, 2002–09
6. Claims for work-related injuries, by geographic region, 2002–09
7. Claims for work-related injuries, by type of injury or illness/disease, 2002–09
8. Claims for work-related injuries, by percentage of type of injury or illness/disease, 2002–09

## 2010 provisional statistics

1. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2010, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by occupation and sex
10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2010, by occupation and ethnic group
13. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by employment status and sex
14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
18. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by geographic region
19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2010, by industry
22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
23. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2010, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
24. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by body site of injury and sex

25. Claims for work-related injuries in 2010, by type of payment

## **2009 final statistics**

1. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by age and sex
2. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by age and sex
3. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by sex
4. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by age
5. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by ethnic group and sex
6. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by ethnic group and sex
7. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by ethnic group
8. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2009, by age and ethnic group
9. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by occupation and sex
10. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by occupation and sex
11. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by occupation
12. Incidence rate of work-related injury claims in 2009, by occupation and ethnic group
13. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by employment status and sex
14. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by number of claims per person
15. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by scene of injury and sex
16. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
17. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by geographic region of injury occurrence and sex
18. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by geographic region
19. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by industry and sex
20. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by industry and sex
21. Claims for fatal work-related injuries in 2009, by industry
22. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
23. Claims involving entitlement payments for work-related injuries in 2009, by type of injury or illness/disease and sex
24. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by body site of injury and sex
25. Claims for work-related injuries in 2009, by type of payment

## **Access more data on Table Builder**

Use [Table Builder](#), a free, online database to access a range of data specific to your needs.

Subject category: **Injury Statistics**