Construction Industry Profile

# Key facts

* 30% of falls injuries were caused by ladders
* There has been a 31% decrease in the rate of serious claims in the construction industry between 2001–02 and 2011–12
* 20% of serious claims were for back injuries
* There has been a 36% decrease in the rate of fatalities between 2002–03 and 2013–14
* 58% of fatalities were caused from falls from a height were from roofs and ladders, half of these involved falls of less than 4 metres

The construction industry comprises work involved with the construction, alteration or demolition of buildings and other structures or the preparation of building sites.

The number of workers in the construction industry has grown by 33% over the last 11 years. Within the construction industry 76% of workers were classed as employees and were covered by workers’ compensation schemes.

There have been significant reductions in the numbers and rates of injuries and fatalities in this industry over the last ten years or more. Nevertheless, the construction industry remains a high risk industry.

In 2012–13 the construction industry accounted for 9% of the Australian workforce but 10% of workers’ compensation claims for injuries and diseases involving one or more weeks off work. In 2013–14 the construction industry again accounted for 9% of the workforce but accounted for 12% of work-related fatalities.

Around 12 600 workers’ compensation claims are accepted from the construction industry each year for injuries and diseases involving one or more weeks off work. In the construction industry this equates to 35 serious claims each day.

In 2012–13 the construction industry had the 4th highest incidence rate of serious claims per 1000 employees and 5th highest fatality rate per 100 000 workers in 2013–14.

## Main causes of injury

1. Body stressing 37%
2. Falls, trips and slips 28%
3. Hit by moving objects 14%

## Main causes of fatalities

1. Falls from a height 28%
2. Vehicle incidents 16%
3. Contact with electricity

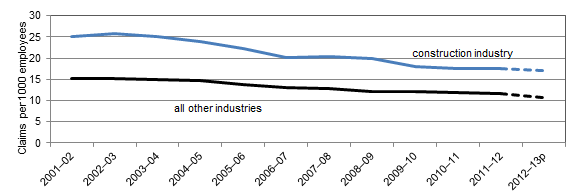
# Serious claims

A serious claim is a workers’ compensation claim for an incapacity that results in a total absence from work of one working week or more. The number of serious claims reported in 2012-13 is preliminary (as denoted by the letter ‘p’) and likely to increase as more claims are accepted or amended by jurisdictions at a later date.

## Trends in serious claims

Figure 1 shows the incidence rate of serious claims in the industry has fallen 31% from 27.5 claims per 1000 employees in 2001–02 to 17.5 in 2011–12. However, this rate remains higher than the rate for all industries (12.0) and was the fourth highest of all industries in 2011–12. The preliminary data for 2012–13 indicates a continuing decline (17.0).

Figure 1: **Serious claims:** incidence rate per 1000 employees in the construction industry   
and all industries, 2001–02 to 2012–13p



## Serious claims in the construction industry by group and class

Within the construction industry, heavy and civil engineering consistently had the highest incidence rate of serious claims while construction services accounted for the largest proportion of serious claims (64%).

Table 1: Serious claims: incidence rates per 1000 employees in the construction industry by industry group and class, 2008-09 to 2012-13p

| Industry sub-division and group | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | % chga | 2012-13p |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Building construction | **13.7** | **12.1** | **13.0** | **12.9** | -6% | **12.6** |
| *Residential building construction* | *\*12.9* | *\*10.4* | *\*10.9* | *\*11.2* | -13% | *\*11.3* |
| *Non-residential building construction* | *\*14.6* | *\*15.3* | *\*16.6* | *\*15.4* | 5% | *\*14.7* |
| Heavy and civil engineering construction | **31.8** | **28.3** | **28.3** | **28.9** | -9% | **30.8** |
| Construction services | **21.0** | **19.4** | **18.0** | **17.9** | -15% | **16.8** |
| *Land development and site preparation services* | *25.1* | *24.9* | *26.0* | *23.1* | -8% | *23.1* |
| *Building structure services* | *27.5* | *25.1* | *25.7* | *21.5* | -22% | *19.6* |
| *Building installation services* | *17.4* | *16.0* | *14.2* | *14.3* | -18% | *13.6* |
| *Building completion services* | *20.8* | *20.8* | *18.3* | *19.3* | -7% | *16.1* |
| *Other construction services* | *22.3* | *18.9* | *17.9* | *20.3* | -9% | *20.5* |
| Construction total | **19.8** | **18.1** | **17.6** | **17.5** | -12% | **17.0** |
| All industries | **12.8** | **12.4** | **12.3** | **12.0** | -6% | **11.1** |

Note:

\*These data have a relative standard error greater than 25% and should be used with caution.

a Percentage change from 2008-09 to 2011-12 as preliminary data for 2012-13 are likely to increase as further claims are accepted.

## Serious claims by occupation

The ten occupations within the construction industry which had the highest number of serious workers’ compensation claims are shown in Table 2.

Over the five-years 2008–09 to 2012–13p carpenters & joiners accounted for 13% of serious claims, followed by plumbers (8%) and electricians (7%). These ten occupations represent half of all claims in the construction industry.

Table 2: Serious claims: percentage of claims in the construction industry by occupation, 2008-09 to 2012-13p combined

| Occupation | Percent |
| --- | --- |
| Carpenters and Joiners | 13% |
| Plumbers | 8% |
| Electricians | 7% |
| Building and Plumbing Labourers | 6% |
| Concreters | 4% |
| Structural Steel Construction Workers | 4% |
| Truck Drivers | 3% |
| Plasterers | 2% |
| Painting Trades Workers | 2% |
| Earthmoving Plant Operators | 2% |

Table 3: Serious claims: percentage by occupation, mechanism and nature of injury in the construction industry, 2008-09 to 2012-13p combined

| Occupation | Body  Stressing | Falls, Trips  & Slips Of  A Person | Being Hit  By Moving  Objects | Other | Grand Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nature of injury |  |  |  |  |  |
| Carpenters and Joiners | 29% | 29% | 23% | 18% | 100% |
| Traumatic Joint/Ligament And Muscle/Tendon Injury | 54% | 35% | 5% | 6% | 100% |
| Wounds, Lacerations, Amputations And Internal Organ Damage | 1% | 13% | 47% | 39% | 100% |
| Fractures | 2% | 58% | 28% | 11% | 100% |
| Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Diseases | 69% | 20% | 3% | 8% | 100% |
| Plumbers | 33% | 32% | 16% | 19% | 100% |
| Traumatic Joint/Ligament And Muscle/Tendon Injury | 52% | 35% | 5% | 8% | 100% |
| Wounds, Lacerations, Amputations And Internal Organ Damage | 2% | 20% | 35% | 44% | 100% |
| Fractures | 4% | 61% | 23% | 13% | 100% |
| Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Diseases | 71% | 21% | 3% | 5% | 100% |
| Electricians | 35% | 34% | 14% | 17% | 100% |
| Traumatic Joint/Ligament And Muscle/Tendon Injury | 52% | 36% | 4% | 9% | 100% |
| Wounds, Lacerations, Amputations And Internal Organ Damage | 1% | 20% | 36% | 43% | 100% |
| Fractures | 4% | 62% | 22% | 12% | 100% |
| Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Diseases | 69% | 20% | 3% | 8% | 100% |
| Building and Plumbing Labourers | 37% | 28% | 20% | 14% | 100% |
| Traumatic Joint/Ligament And Muscle/Tendon Injury | 57% | 29% | 8% | 6% | 100% |
| Wounds, Lacerations, Amputations And Internal Organ Damage | 1% | 19% | 45% | 34% | 100% |
| Fractures | 3% | 46% | 37% | 15% | 100% |
| Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Diseases | 76% | 15% | 1% | 7% | 100% |
| Concreters | 46% | 26% | 15% | 13% | 100% |
| Traumatic Joint/Ligament And Muscle/Tendon Injury | 61% | 27% | 5% | 7% | 100% |
| Wounds, Lacerations, Amputations And Internal Organ Damage | 2% | 19% | 44% | 36% | 100% |
| Fractures | 3% | 46% | 33% | 18% | 100% |
| Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Diseases | 78% | 15% | 1% | 6% | 100% |

## Serious claims by mechanism of injury

Body stressing was the most common mechanism of injury over the 5 years 2008–09 to   
2012–13p accounting for 37% of serious claims in the construction industry. Almost half (47%) of the serious claims for body stressing were the result of muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects. Falls, trips and slips of a person was the second most common mechanism of injury representing 28% of serious claims, most caused by falls on the same level.

Table 4: Serious claims: number and percentage by mechanism in the construction industry and all industries, 2008-09 to 2012-13p combined

| Mechanism | Construction | | All industries | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sub-group of mechanism of injury | Number | % | Number | % |
| Body Stressing | **23 340** | **37%** | **261 505** | 42% |
| Muscular stress while lifting, carrying, or putting down objects | 10 950 | 47**%** | 110 415 | 42% |
| Muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting down | 8 475 | 36**%** | 97 990 | 37% |
| Falls, Trips And Slips Of A Person | **17 660** | **28%** | **135 570** | 22% |
| Falls on the same level | 8 145 | 46**%** | 86 200 | 64% |
| Falls from a height | 7 800 | 44**%** | 38 845 | 29% |
| Being Hit By Moving Objects | **10,660** | **17%** | **88 965** | 14% |
| Being hit by moving objects | 4 695 | 44**%** | 28 375 | 32% |
| Being hit by falling objects | 3 050 | 29**%** | 20 730 | 23% |
| Hitting Objects With A Part Of The Body | **6 310** | **10%** | **43 080** | 7% |
| Hitting moving objects | 3 325 | 53**%** | 20 535 | 48% |
| Hitting stationary objects | 2 945 | 47**%** | 22 125 | 51% |
| Other mechanisms | **5 260** | **8%** | **89 445** | **14%** |
| Total serious claims | 63 230 | 100% | 618 565 | 100% |

## Serious claims by location of injury

Over the five years 2008–09 to 2012–13p three-quarters of serious injuries for which workers’ compensation was awarded in the construction industry were for locations indicated in Figure 2. Injuries to the back and to the hand, fingers & thumb accounted for more than one-third of compensated injuries in this industry.

**Figure 2: Serious claims: percentage by bodily location in the construction industry, 2008-09 to 2012-13p combined**

Figure 2 shows  the back accounts for 20% of injuries, followed by hand, fingers & thumb with 17%, knee & upper leg 12%, shoulder & upper arm 10%, Ankle & lower leg 9% and wrist, elbow & forearm 8%.

## Serious claims by nature of injury or disease

Injuries accounted for around three-quarters of all serious claims compensated in the construction industry over the five years 2008–09 to 2012–13p—more than half were traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injuries. Musculoskeletal disorders accounted for a further 12% of serious claims and diseases 7%. There were less than five claims for asbestosis and no claims for mesothelioma recorded for diseases over this period: this may be because claims were lodged with the NSW Dust Diseases Board or compensation may have been sought through other means.

Table 5: Serious claims: number and percentage by nature of injury or disease in the construction industry and all industries, 2008–09 to 2012–13p combined

|  | Construction | | All industries | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nature of injury or disease | Number | % | Number | % |
| Injuries | **50 955** | **79%** | **457 975** | **74%** |
| Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury | 26 800 | 53% | 282 050 | 62% |
| Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage | 13 220 | 26% | 93 675 | 20% |
| Fractures | 8 160 | 16% | 55 340 | 12% |
| Burns | 735 | 1% | 9 460 | 2% |
| Other injuries | 2 040 | 4% | 17 450 | 4% |
| Musculoskeletal disorders | **7 720** | **12%** | **88 545** | **14%** |
| Diseases | **4 540** | **7%** | **72 045** | **12%** |
| Digestive system diseases (e.g. hernias, ulcers & gastritis) | 2 295 | 51% | 15 035 | 21% |
| Mental disorders (e.g. anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorders | 855 | 19% | 38 730 | 54% |
| Nervous system & sense organ diseases (carpal tunnel syndrome, deafness) | 560 | 12% | 7 245 | 10% |
| Skin & subcutaneous tissue diseases (contact dermatitis, eczema) | 430 | 9% | 3 455 | 5% |
| Other diseases | 400 | 9% | 7 580 | 11% |
| Total serious claims | **63 230** | **100%** | **618 565** | **100%** |

## Serious claims by location of injury and age

Younger workers were more likely than older workers to incur injuries to their hand, fingers & thumb, ankle, wrist, and foot & toes. Older workers had a much higher proportion of injuries to the shoulder than younger workers.

The back was the most common location of injury for workers in both the 35–54 years and 55 years and over age groups—it accounted for more serious claims than any other part of the body.

The proportion of injuries that affected the shoulder, knee, lower leg and abdomen & pelvic region all increased with age.

Figure 3: Serious claims: percentage by location of injury and age in the construction industry, 2008–09 to 2012–13p combined

## Incidence rate of serious claims by jurisdiction

In 2012–13p the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest incidence rate of serious claims with 29.0 claims per 1000 workers while Victoria had the lowest with 12.9. Tasmania recorded the largest decrease of any jurisdiction with a 26% decrease over the five year period.

Figure 4: Serious claims: incidence rates by jurisdiction in the construction industry, 2008–09   
to 2012–13p

# Fatalities

Unlike serious claims where the most recently reported data is preliminary (and the number of claims are likely to increase as more claims are accepted for compensation), the fatalities data are more stable. Only persons who die from injuries sustained while they are working are included in this report—it does not include deaths attributable to disease and other natural causes. It is possible that some fatalities, particularly those related to traffic incidents, may be missed because of the way these deaths are coded.

Over the 12 years from 2002–03 to 2013–14, 417 construction workers died from injuries sustained at work. This was 14% of all fatalities of Australian workers during this period. The total number of deaths equates to 2.24 fatalities per 100 000 workers, which is 34% higher than the national rate of 1.67.

Table 6: Worker fatalities: number by mechanism and breakdown agency, 2002–03 to 2013–14 combined

| Mechanism & breakdown agency | Number |
| --- | --- |
| Falls from a height  Of these, 54 involved falls from buildings & other structures (most were caused by falls from roofs), 28 involved ladders and 12 involved scaffolding | 117 |
| Vehicle incidents  In 35 of the incidents the workers was in a car and 19 were in a truck | 68 |
| Contact with electricity  Most of these fatalities were caused during electrical installation. Of these, 20 involved distribution lines-low tension and 7 control apparatus | 63 |
| Being hit by falling objects  Objects falling from buildings and other structures accounted for 9 fatalities while cranes and excavators, backhoes & other digging plant accounted for 5 fatalities each | 49 |
| Being hit by moving objects  Of these, 20 involved cars and trucks | 49 |
| Other mechanisms | 71 |
| Total construction fatalities | 417 |

## Trends in fatalities

Over the 12-years from 2002–03 to 2013–14 there was a 36% decrease in the rate of fatalities in the construction industry compared with a 41% decrease nationally.

Figure 5: Worker fatalities: incidence rates in the construction industry and all industries, 2002–03   
to 2013–14

## Fatalities by jurisdiction and mechanism of incident

Table 7 shows the breakdown by state and the mechanism of the incident resulting in death. Falls from a height was the most common cause of death nationally, as well as in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. In Tasmania vehicle collisions were the most common mechanism causing death.

Table 7: Worker fatalities: percentage by mechanism of incident and jurisdiction, 2002–03 to 2013–14 combined

|  | New South Wales | Victoria | Queensland | Western Australia | South Australia | Tasmania | Australia |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Falls from a height | 37% | 29% | 21% | 21% | 25% | 21% | 28% |
| Vehicle incident | 15% | 19% | 17% | 10% | 14% | 29% | 16% |
| Contact with electricity | 16% | 11% | 18% | 14% | 11% | 7% | 15% |
| Being hit by moving objects | 12% | 11% | 12% | 17% | 4% | 14% | 12% |
| Being hit by falling objects | 7% | 12% | 13% | 21% | 14% | 21% | 12% |
| Other mechanisms | 13% | 18% | 19% | 17% | 32% | 7% | 17% |
| Total | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Note: Data are not shown for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory because of the small numbers involved.

Falls from a height accounted for 28% of fatalities overall in the construction industry over the 12-year period 2002–03 to 2013–14. In the industry group classes of the construction industry, falls from a height was the mechanism responsible for the most fatalities in house construction, non-residential building construction, painting & decoration services, plumbing services and roofing services.

## Fatalities by occupation

Over the period 2002–03 to 2013–14 there were 417 fatalities in the construction industry: Figure 6 shows the 12 occupations which recorded the most fatalities over the period.

Figure 6: Worker fatalities: number by occupation, 2002–03 to 2013–14 combined

## Fatalities by industry groups

The industry group classes which recorded the highest number of deaths are shown in   
Figure 7. Site preparation services recorded the most deaths: its activities involve earthmoving work such as levelling of construction sites, excavation of foundations, trench digging or removal of overburden.

Site preparation services had the most fatalities of all the industry group classes within the construction industry (see Figure 7 left) with being hit by falling objects the most common single mechanism causing death (see table 8). Electrical services had the second highest number of fatalities, of these 53% were from contact with electricity.

Figure 7: Worker fatalities: number by industry groups, 2002–03 to 2013–14 combined

Table 8: Worker fatalities: percentage by industry group classes and mechanism of incident, 2002–03 to 2013–14 combined

| Industry group classes | Falls from a height | Vehicle incident | Contact with electricity | Hit by falling objects | Hit by moving objects | Other mechanisms | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Site Preparation Services | 6% | 17% | 1% | 19% | 20% | 36% | 100% |
| Electrical Services | 22% | 20% | 53% | 0% | 2% | 4% | 100% |
| House Construction | 49% | 11% | 11% | 19% | 0% | 11% | 100% |
| Road and Bridge Construction | 6% | 26% | 0% | 9% | 41% | 18% | 100% |
| Non-Residential Building Construction | 35% | 19% | 4% | 23% | 4% | 15% | 100% |
| Painting and Decorating Services | 71% | 5% | 10% | 0% | 5% | 10% | 100% |
| Plumbing Services | 52% | 14% | 24% | 5% | 5% | 0% | 100% |
| Concreting Services | 20% | 15% | 10% | 20% | 10% | 25% | 100% |
| Roofing Services | 75% | 0% | 25% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% |
| Landscape Construction Services | 0% | 36% | 18% | 9% | 18% | 18% | 100% |
| Other industry group classes | 30% | 15% | 14% | 12% | 11% | 18% | 100% |

# Falls from a height

## Serious Claims

Falls from a height accounted for 12% of work-related workers’ compensation claims in the construction industry over the five year period 2008–09 to 2012–13p (‘p’ denotes the data is preliminary). Younger workers were more likely to make a claim than older workers—workers aged less than 35 years of age accounted for 45% of serious workers’ compensation claims, workers aged 35 to 54 years a further 40% and workers aged 55 years and over 15%.

The causes and location of injuries that were most commonly claimed for by workers in the five occupations recording the highest number of claims in the construction industry are shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Serious claims: number by occupation, breakdown agency and location of injury, 2008–09 to 2012–13p combined

| Occupation and breakdown agency | Location of injury | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Lower Limbs | Upper Limbs | Trunk | Other locations |
| **Carpenters & joiners** | 345 | 270 | 160 | 100 |
| Ladders | 125 | 140 | 50 | 35 |
| Buildings & other structures | 80 | 60 | 40 | 25 |
| Scaffolding | 55 | 35 | 35 | 15 |
| Others | 85 | 40 | 30 | 25 |
| **Plumbers** | 235 | 175 | 105 | 60 |
| Ladders | 100 | 95 | 45 | 25 |
| Buildings & other structures | 35 | 35 | 30 | 15 |
| Steps & stairways | 30 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Others | 70 | 40 | 25 | 10 |
| **Electricians** | 220 | 190 | 85 | 60 |
| Ladders | 135 | 145 | 50 | 45 |
| Buildings & other structures | 35 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| Steps & stairways | 25 | 10 | 5 | 0 |
| Others | 30 | 20 | 15 | 5 |
| **Building & plumbing labourers** | 165 | 110 | 70 | 35 |
| Ladders | 45 | 45 | 20 | 10 |
| Buildings & other structures | 35 | 20 | 25 | 10 |
| Holes in the ground | 35 | 10 | 5 | 10 |
| Others | 60 | 35 | 20 | 10 |
| **Painting trades workers** | 155 | 105 | 80 | 45 |
| Ladders | 90 | 80 | 40 | 25 |
| Scaffolding | 20 | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| Buildings & other structures | 20 | 10 | 15 | 5 |
| Others | 25 | 10 | 10 | 5 |

## Serious claims by causes of falls

Figure 8 shows the 10 most common breakdown agencies involving falls from a height over the five years 2008–09 to 2012–13p. Ladders were the most common cause of injuries accounting for 30% of claims which was more than twice that of the next most common cause.

Figure 8: Serious claims: percentage by breakdown agency in the construction industry, 2008–09 to 2012–13p combined

## Serious claims by location and nature of injury

The most common types of injuries resulting from falls from a height and the location of injuries are shown in Table 10.   
It shows that over the five years, 2008–09 to 2012–13p combined, traumatic joint/ligament & muscle tendon injuries to the lower limbs were the most common outcome of falls from a height (1715 claims) followed by fractures to the upper limbs (1045).

Table 10: Serious claims: number by bodily location and nature of injury, 2008–09 to 2012–13p

|  | Traumatic joint/ligament & muscle/tendon injury | Fractures | Wounds, lacerations, amputations & internal organ damage | Musculoskeletal & connective tissue diseases | Other injuries | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lower Limbs** | 1715 | 905 | 375 | 115 | 70 | 3180 |
| **Upper Limbs** | 705 | 1045 | 330 | 110 | 40 | 2225 |
| **Trunk** | 545 | 540 | 190 | 200 | 50 | 1525 |
| **Head** | 5 | 60 | 70 | 0 | 95 | 230 |
| **Neck** | 30 | 20 | 5 | 20 | 5 | 80 |
| **Other** | 210 | 120 | 125 | 15 | 100 | 560 |
| **Total** | 3205 | 2690 | 1095 | 455 | 355 | 7800 |

## Fatalities

Falls from a height was the most common cause of workplace death over the period 2002–03 to 2013–14—accounting for 117 fatalities in the construction industry (see Table 6).

Table 12 shows falls from roofs and ladders combined accounted for 58% of fatalities. Almost half of fall fatalities (48%) in the construction industry resulted from falls from a height of less than 4 metres.

Table 11: Worker fatalities: number by breakdown agency and height of the fall, 2002–03 to 2013–2014 combined

| Breakdown agency | Height of fall causing fatality | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | <3m | 3<4m | 4<6m | 6<10m | 10<20m | 20m | Unknown | Total |
| Roof | 8 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 1 | - | 41 |
| Ladders | 8 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 27 |
| Scaffolding | 3 | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 13 |
| Ceiling, joist, manhole, trusses, skylights | 5 | 5 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 13 |
| Tower, crane, drilling rig | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | - | 4 |
| Balcony | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Elevated work platform | - | - | - | - | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| Hole in ground | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 3 |
| Trucks, boats, bulldozers | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Formwork | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Shipping container, tanks | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| Total fatalities | 29 | 30 | 19 | 13 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 117 |

## Fatalities by occupation

Over the 12-years, 2002–03 to 2013–14, Building & plumbing labourers reported the most fatalities (18) with most the result of falling from roofs. There were 16 bricklayers, carpenters & joiners fatalities, 14 painting trades workers fatalities and 13 electricians fatalities—the most common cause being falls from ladders.

Table 11: Worker fatalities: number by occupation and breakdown agency, 2002–03 to 2013–2014 combined

| Occupations and breakdown agencies | Numbers |
| --- | --- |
| Building & plumbing labourers | 18 |
| Bricklayers, carpenters & joiners—of these 11 involved falls from roofs and balconies. | 16 |
| Painting trades workers—of these 6 involved falls from ladders and 3 from roofs and balconies. | 14 |
| Electricians—falls from ladders accounted for 6 and 6 from roofs and balconies. | 13 |
| Roof tilers—falls from roofs and balconies accounted for 8 fatalities. | 9 |
| Plumbers—of these 4 were the result of falls from ladders and 3 from roofs and balconies. | 8 |
| Structural steel construction workers, of these 3 were from falls from scaffolding and 3 from roofs and balconies. | 6 |
| Handypersons—all fatalities resulting from falls from ladders. | 5 |
| Other occupations | 28 |
| Total fatalities | 117 |