

Work-related fatalities

Summary

- Some industries are more dangerous than others.
- In 2013, 196 people in Australia died due to work-related accidents.
- **WorkSafe Victoria** aims to prevent injuries and deaths at work and enforces Victoria's occupational health and safety laws.
- **Safe Work Australia** helps develop national policies to improve work health and safety and workers' compensation for Australians.

The number of work-related deaths in Australia decreased overall between 2003 and 2013. **Safe Work Australia** compiles statistics on work-related injuries and deaths in Australia. These statistics come from a range of sources, including files from the coroner's office, workers' compensation data and the media.

Deaths caused by diseases, natural causes and suicide are not included in these statistics.

Number of deaths

In 2013, 196 Australians lost their lives in work-related accidents. Of these, 180 were men and 16 were women. This equates to 1.70 deaths for every 100,000 workers.

The most dangerous industries

Some industries are more dangerous than others. The number of deaths and death rates per 100,000 workers for the most dangerous industries is outlined in the table below.

Industry	Number of deaths	Percentage of deaths	Deaths per 100,000 workers
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	49	25 %	16.33
Transport, postal & warehousing	45	23 %	7.59
Arts & recreation services	7	4%	3.37
Mining	8	4%	3.00
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	4	2%	2.72
Construction	22	11%	2.18

Source: Safe Work Australia, 2015

The most dangerous occupations

Some occupations are more dangerous than others. The average annual death rate per 100,000 workers was:

- **Machinery operators and drivers** – 8.12 deaths
- **Labourers** – 3.55 deaths

- **Managers** – 1.99 deaths
- **Technicians and trades workers** – 1.68 deaths
- **Community and personal service workers** – 1.23 deaths
- **Sales workers** – 0.56 deaths
- **Professionals** – 0.47 deaths
- **Clerical and administrative workers** – 0.06 deaths.

Common causes of death

The most common causes of work-related injuries leading to death include:

- vehicle accidents
- being hit by moving or falling objects
- falling from a height
- electricity
- a non-road vehicle rolling over
- being trapped by moving machinery
- being assaulted by one or more people.

Where to get help

- Occupational Health and Safety Officer in your workplace
- **Worksafe Victoria** Tel. (03) 9641 1444
- **Victorian Trades Hall Council (OH.& S Unit)** Tel. (03) 9659 3511
- National Association for Loss & Grief (NALAG) Tel. (03) 9351 0358

Things to remember

- Some industries are more dangerous than others.
- In 2013, 196 people in Australia died due to work-related accidents.
- WorkSafe Victoria aims to prevent injuries and deaths at work and enforces Victoria's occupational health and safety laws.
- Safe Work Australia helps develop national policies to improve work health and safety and workers' compensation for Australians.

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by:

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