

07 March 2022



Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016797

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Gender breakdown of injuries (and types of injuries) by gender (and what the rate is when you take into account the % of the industry is male and female).
Also, can you please tell me if ACC covers mental health injuries due to workplace culture? e.g. harassment.

On 21 February 2022 we emailed you asking for some more details about what sort of data you would like. Because we didn't hear from you, we have interpreted your request to be for an injury and gender breakdown of claims received by ACC where the industry is construction, or the occupation is Mechanical Engineering.

We can provide a breakdown by injury type and gender

The tables in Appendix 1 below provide a breakdown of accepted claims by gender and injury types in the construction industry and mechanical engineering profession. This data is for claims registered between 2011 and 2021 calendar year.

These two data sets are not comparable, as claims from the mechanical engineering profession will also appear in the construction industry claims data.

Notes about the data

- New claims are counted by the date they are lodged with ACC. A claim can be lodged immediately after an injury or at a later date.
- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.
- Injury type is based on the client's primary diagnosis. Claims may have multiple injuries; however, these secondary injuries will not show within this data extract.
- The data is shown by calendar year which is 1 January to 31 December.

ACC cares about privacy

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is less than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (..). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

ACC does not know the overall gender breakdown of mechanical engineers or in the construction industry.

Therefore, we are unable to provide you with a breakdown of the rate of injuries. Because ACC doesn't hold this information and we don't believe any other department does, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act.

To be covered under the Accident Compensation Act 2001 a mental injury must be both a personal injury, and a clinically significant behavioural, cognitive or psychological dysfunction.

This means that there are some circumstances where ACC is unable to provide cover. These include where a mental injury:

- was caused by traumatic events outside of employment, without an accompanying physical injury (except for sensitive claims)
- is a minor physical injury in traumatic circumstances and was not a significant cause of the mental injury,
- was caused by stress or other gradual processes at work
- has been identified by a mental health specialist, that the mental health condition occurred before the accident or event
- was the result of an accident that only had a limited effect (eg, was a trigger or 'final straw' after a series of stressful events)

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here:

<https://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12>.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support

Appendix 1

Table 1. Number of new mechanical engineering related claims, broken down by injury type

Injury Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Soft Tissue Injury (Contusion, Internal Organ, Strain)	1,050	1,062	1,196	1,298	1,184	1,233
Infected/ Non-Infected Laceration, Puncture Wound, Sting	575	537	630	564	479	558
Foreign Body in Orifice/Eye	288	261	278	276	269	259
Deafness	66	79	77	82	64	57
Fracture/ Dislocation	77	56	76	69	70	74
Burns (Burn, Corrosive Injury, Scald)	58	59	60	57	57	54
Gradual Onset (not Disease/ Infection)	17	20	22	13	20	10
Concussion/ Brain Injury	10	14	7	12	7	14
Dental Injuries	6	9	7	12	9	<4
Hernia	10	7	8	4	4	7
Other	119	125	153	135	133	..
Grand Total	2,276	2,229	2,514	2,522	2,296	2,400

Table 2. Number of new mechanical engineering related claims, broken down by sex

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	25	27	32	36	43	42
Male	2,251	2,202	2,482	2,486	2,253	2,358
Grand Total	2,276	2,229	2,514	2,522	2,296	2,400

Table 3. Number of new construction related claims broken down by injury type

Injury Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Soft Tissue Injury (Contusion, Internal Organ, Strain)	17,539	18,768	19,398	18,865	18,714	19,940
Infected/ Non-Infected Laceration, Puncture Wound, Sting	8,176	8,753	8,788	8,626	8,329	9,148
Foreign Body in Orifice/Eye	1,787	1,904	1,881	1,885	1,708	1,852
Fracture/ Dislocation	1,091	1,211	1,299	1,203	1,231	1,214
Deafness	994	942	898	802	716	581
Dental Injuries	274	285	293	290	302	335
Burns (Burn, Corrosive Injury, Scald)	251	303	283	247	254	265
Gradual Onset (not Disease/ Infection)	245	229	222	198	246	215
Concussion/ Brain Injury	97	160	169	164	163	184
Amputation/ Enucleation	51	42	50	56	53	51
Other	1,761	1,836	1,810	1,853	1,788	1,846
Grand Total	32,266	34,433	35,091	34,189	33,504	35,631

Table 4. Number of new construction related claims, broken down by sex

Sex	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	751	867	904	1,004	1,064	1,181
Male	31,515	33,566	34,187	33,185	32,440	34,450
Grand Total	32,266	34,433	35,091	34,189	33,504	35,631