

# Safety Performance

## In the Western Australian Mineral Industry

### 2002/2003

#### STATISTICAL SUMMARY 2002/03

- There were five fatal accidents during 2002/03; one occurred underground in a base metals mine and four occurred on the surface; two at gold mines, one at a nickel mine and one at a diamond mine.
- There were 378 lost time injuries during 2002/03, almost the same as the previous year (380 injuries in 2001/02).
- There was an average workforce of 43,285 employees in 2002/03, an increase of 6 percent over the previous year (40,969 employees in 2001/02).
- The overall lost time injury duration rate deteriorated by 4 percent during 2002/03, rising from 18.8 to 19.6.
- The overall lost time injury frequency rate improved slightly by 2 percent during 2002/03, falling from 4.5 to 4.4.
- The overall injury index deteriorated slightly by 2 percent during 2002/03, up from 84 to 86.
- Serious injuries in the mining industry during 2002/03 totalled 271, which is 17 more than for 2001/02.
- The overall serious injury frequency rate deteriorated by 7 percent during 2002/03, rising from 3.0 to 3.2.
- The bauxite and alumina sector lost time injury frequency rate deteriorated by 8 percent during 2002/03, rising from 2.5 to 2.7.
- The gold sector lost time injury frequency rate improved by 14 percent during 2002/03, falling from 5.8 to 5.0.
- The iron ore sector lost time injury frequency rate deteriorated by 4 percent during 2002/03, rising from 2.3 to 2.4. This is the lowest frequency rate of all the major commodity groups.
- The nickel sector lost time injury frequency rate deteriorated significantly by 60 percent during 2002/03, rising from 3.0 to 4.8.

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS 2002/03

- A diesel fitter, on top of the engine compartment of a load haul dump unit (LHD) which had stopped in an underground decline, was peering into the compartment when the LHD rolled approximately 44 metres down the decline before it struck the decline wall and stopped. A witness to the accident found the diesel fitter on top of the LHD with severe head injuries.
- A pit technician, engaged in "ore spotting" (determining the position of the ore-waste contact) for an excavator in a pit, was buried by rock debris when the pit wall immediately above her failed and rilled across the berm on which she was standing.
- A caretaker at a minesite on care and maintenance was found dead adjacent to the workshop. It is believed that he was inflating a tyre on a wheel which was lying flat on the ground when the tyre bead failed and the tube ruptured catastrophically. The force of the rupture caused the wheel assembly to be propelled into the air striking him in the face and chest area.
- A haul truck operator was driving his truck up the main pit ramp when a significant section of the ramp collapsed causing his truck to fall over the ramp edge. The truck rolled some 60 vertical metres down the slope and came to rest completely submerged in a sump at the bottom of the pit.
- A haul truck operator suffered fatal crush injuries when the cab of the truck he was driving was crushed by the rear of the tray of another truck which was rolling backwards down a pit ramp. The run away truck had broken down on the ramp and the operator had left the cab to direct traffic around his truck. In the process of restarting the truck it rolled backwards down the ramp, apparently through the brakes which had been previously set.

#### Definitions

##### Lost Time Injury (LTI)

A work injury that results in an absence from work for at least one full day or shift any time after the day or shift on which the injury occurred.

##### Serious Injury

A lost time injury that results in the injured person being disabled for a period of two weeks or more.

##### Minor Injury

A lost time injury that results in the injured person being disabled for a period of less than two weeks.

##### Incidence Rate

The number of lost time injuries per 1,000 employees for a 12 month period.

##### Frequency Rate (LTIFR)

The number of lost time injuries per million hours worked.

##### Duration Rate

The average number of workdays lost per injury.

##### Injury Index

The number of workdays lost per million hours worked.

##### Serious Frequency Rate

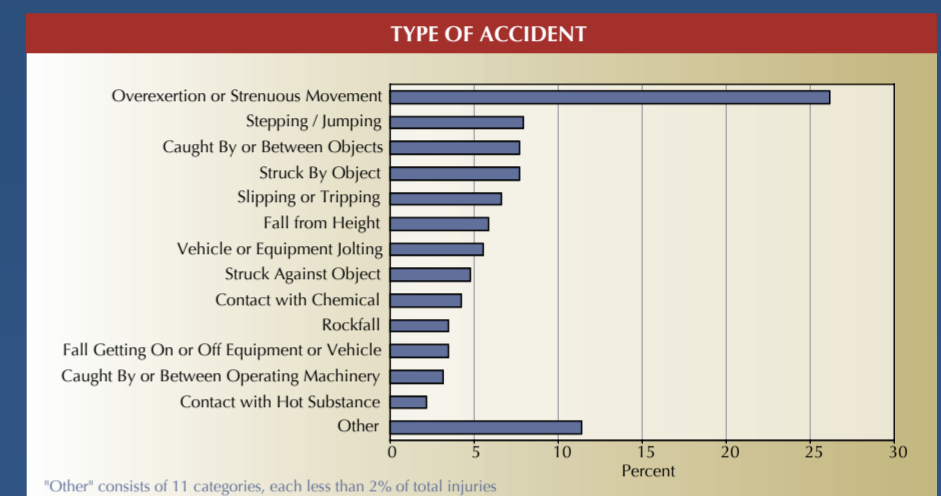
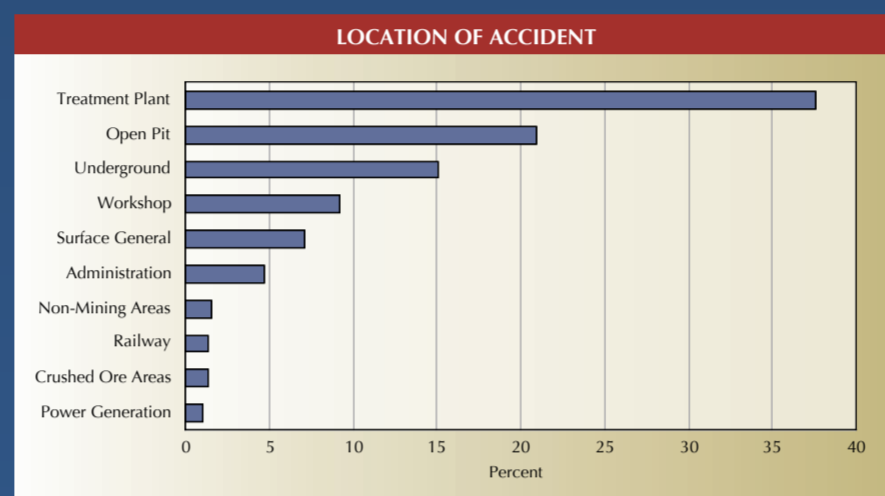
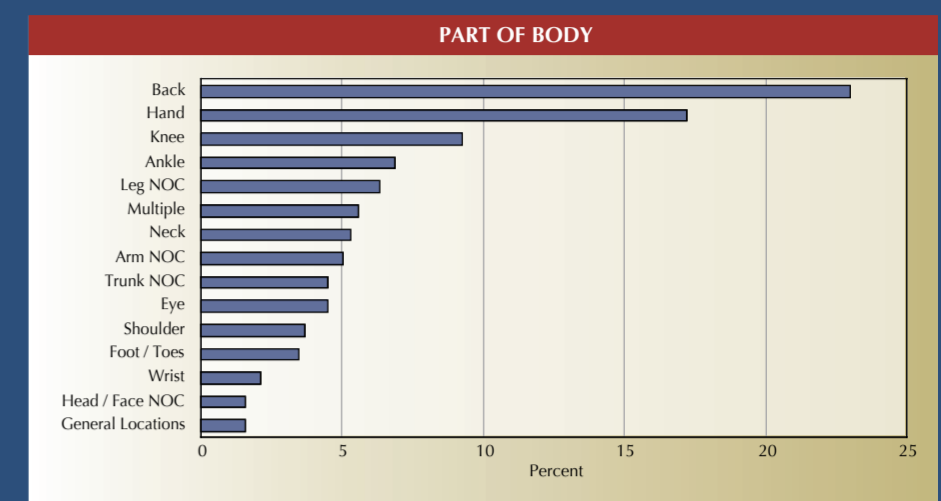
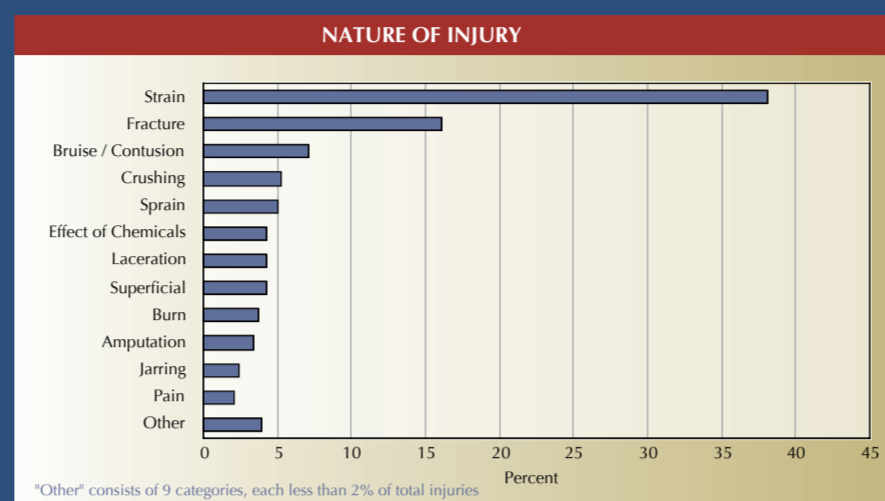
The number of serious injuries per million hours worked.

##### Metalliferous Mines

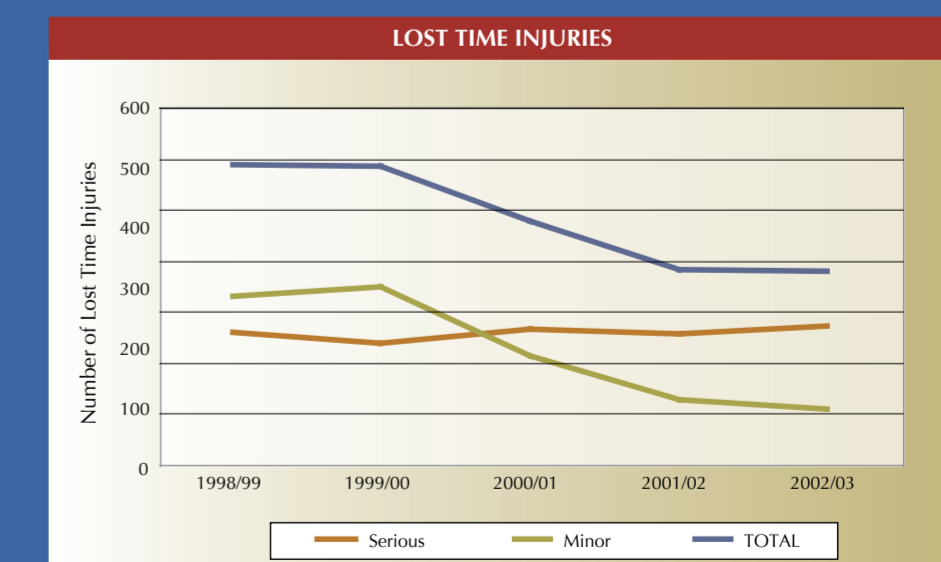
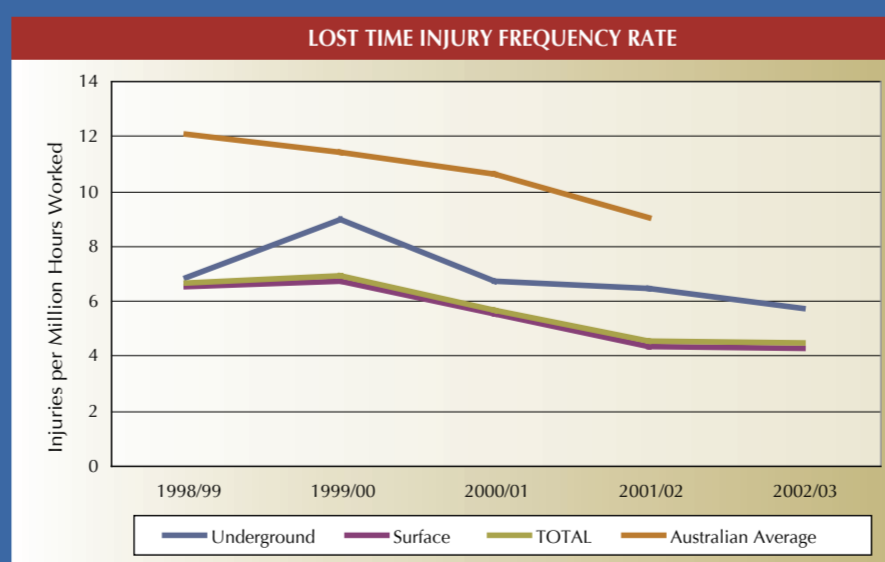
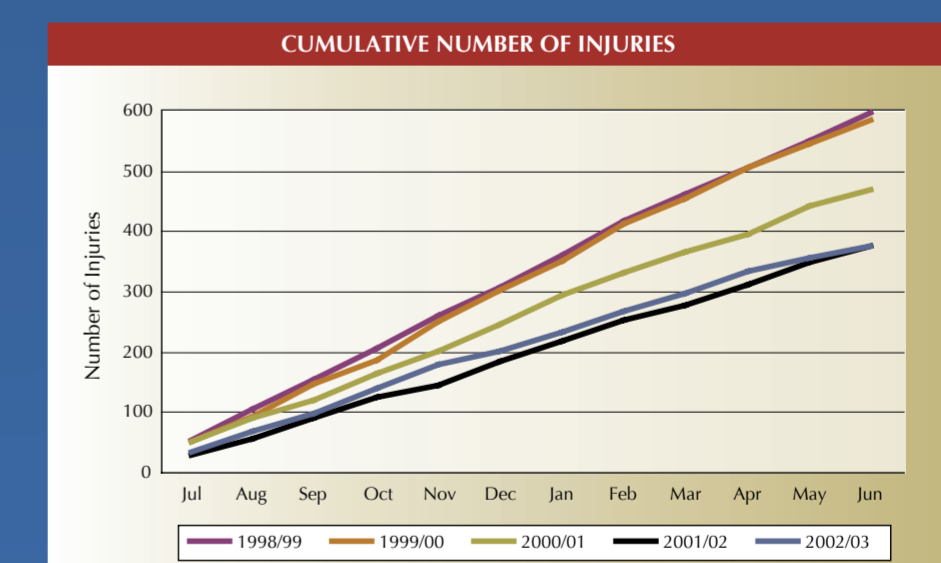
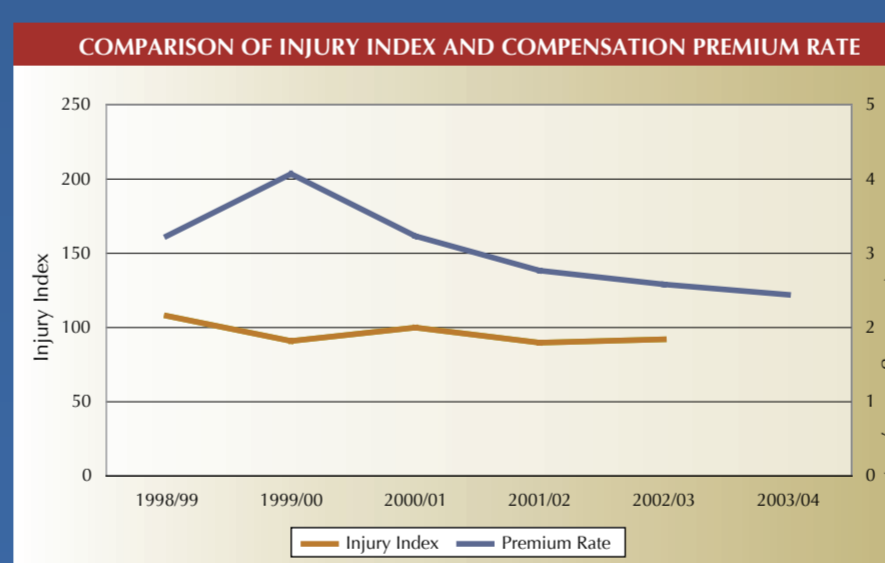
All mines other than coal mines are classed as metalliferous mines.

##### NOC

Not Otherwise Classified.



Mineral Mined	No. of Employees	No. of LTIs	No. of Fatais	No. of Serious LTIs	No. of Minor LTIs	Incidence	Frequency Rate	Duration	Injury Index	Days Lost
Gold	12,702	132	2	95	37	10.4	5.0	21.0	104	2,769
Iron Ore	10,635	46	0	33	13	4.3	2.4	17.7	43	812
Bauxite and Alumina	6,627	34	0	25	9	5.1	2.7	14.9	40	506
Nickel	5,343	57	1	40	17	10.7	4.8	20.7	99	1,180
Mineral Sands	2,050	16	0	10	6	7.8	3.9	16.9	66	270
Base Metals	1,148	24	1	19	5	20.9	8.4	13.1	110	314
Diamonds	1,095	20	1	18	2	18.3	8.3	23.9	198	478
Salt	659	4	0	4	0	6.1	3.6	30.5	110	122
Tin-Tantalum-Lithium	456	8	0	7	1	17.5	6.8	49.1	333	393
Construction Materials	305	3	0	2	1	9.8	5.3	41.7	219	125
Other	1,625	18	0	11	7	11.1	6.7	18.9	127	341
Surface Metalliferous	38,516	305	4	219	86	7.9	4.1	21.0	86	6,419
Underground Metalliferous	4,129	57	1	45	12	13.8	5.7	15.6	89	891
Total Metalliferous	42,645	362	5	264	98	8.5	4.3	20.2	86	7,310
Coal	640	16	0	7	9	25.0	14.7	6.7	98	107
<b>TOTAL - ALL MINING</b>	<b>43,285</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7,417</b>



The Australian Average Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate for 2002/03 was not available at the time of publication.

Note

Charts and tables on this poster do not include exploration.



Department of Industry and Resources