

17 June 2020

Rebekah Vincent
c/- info@data.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Rebekah

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-005071

Thank you for your request of 27 May 2020, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Please can you provide a break down of claims made for employees/employers of small and medium sized businesses, including industry, geographical location, injury type, injury description, month, whether it was a fatality, lost time injury or medical treatment injury.

Work related injury data

The dataset available to ACC is largely reliant on the information a person provides on the ACC45 injury claim form, which is completed when they seek medical treatment for their injury. The injury claim form has several fields to complete, some of which are mandatory to complete and others that are not. While it is mandatory to fill out the employer name and address for work-related claims, no information is required regarding whether the employer is a small or medium sized business. As such, we do not record information about whether work related injury claims are made for small and medium sized businesses or otherwise.

We are, however, able to provide you with a breakdown of all work related injury claims for the period requested. The data is contained in the spreadsheet that has been uploaded to your request, found at www.data.govt.nz/datasetrequest/show/491.

We have interpreted the last part of your request to be asking about the severity of claims, including those that are fatal injuries.

ACC indicates severity of claims by comparing the number of people who only need medical treatment for their injury, with the number of people who receive further ACC support (entitlements such as weekly compensation or vocational rehabilitation) in addition to any medical treatment for their injury.

We have categorised severity by 'Entitlement Payment' claims, which include Weekly Compensation, Vocational Rehabilitation, Support for Independence and Hospital Treatment, 'Other Payment' claims, which include Independence Allowance, Lump Sum payments, Death Benefits and other, miscellaneous expenditure, and 'Medical Treatment' claims, which include payments for medical and dental treatment, and other related medical treatment costs.

We have also provided a breakdown by fatal and non-fatal claims. Please be aware that ACC is not able to provide comprehensive fatality statistics as ACC data is collected on the basis of claims made. Our data may not represent the total number of fatalities related to accidents for the following reasons:

- Many people are not aware that they can make a claim related to an accidental death of a family member and therefore ACC only ever receives claims for a subset of accidental deaths.
- If a person who has an open claim with ACC dies of their injuries, or other causes, ACC is not necessarily notified of this.

For more accurate fatality data, we suggest that you contact the Ministry of Health Mortality Collection (MORT), which classifies the underlying cause of death for all deaths registered in New Zealand. MORT uses a range of sources (Police, funeral director, coroner, hospital records) to validate data reliability.

More information on MORT is available on www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/national-collections-and-surveys/collections/mortality-collection or by contacting data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz.

In addition, accurate data for workplace fatalities is available from WorkSafe NZ. They can be contacted on oia@worksafe.govt.nz.

Please also consider the following when interpreting the data we have provided:

- Claims are those that were registered between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2019.
- The claims in these tables have been counted by the date that the claim was registered with ACC, which can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.
- Work related claims have been identified by those funded via the work account, or those where the 'at work indicator' is equal to yes.
- Accredited employer claims have been excluded.
- Location data is based on the client's location when an accident occurred and may not be where the client was residing at the time.
- Injury diagnosis is based on the claimant's primary injury. Claims may have more than one injury, however secondary injuries have not been shown in this data.
- The data was extracted on 4 June 2020 and may differ if re-run at a later date.

How you can reach us

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support