

Farm Accidents 2019-2024

September 2025



Who we are:

The Injuries Resolution Board is an independent State Body established in 2004 to support the fair, prompt, and transparent resolution of personal injuries claims without the need for unnecessary litigation.

Through the Injuries Resolution Board, personal injuries claims can be resolved impartially without the need for many of the costs and time associated with litigation. The Injuries Resolution Board is a self-funded public body and is a key pillar in contributing to reform of the insurance sector and the personal injuries environment. The Injuries Resolution Board generates millions of euros in savings which would otherwise be spent on pursuing claims through litigation leading to higher costs for parties to claims and ultimately to policy holders, communities and businesses.

What we do:

The Injuries Resolution Board independently facilitates the resolution of personal injury claims through neutral, impartial mediation and/or assessment of compensation for injuries sustained as a result of:

- Motor/ Road traffic accidents
- Employer/ Workplace accidents
- Public Liability accidents
- Garda Compensation Scheme

Our assessment and mediation services are fair, independent and non-adversarial and we use the same Guidelines as the Courts to calculate levels of compensation. Our services lead to quicker, consistent and lower cost resolution of claims benefiting all parties and society. The Injuries Resolution Board also collects and analyses data on personal injury claims and awards to help contribute to greater transparency and inform policy and decision making in this area.

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Key Findings:

Personal Injuries sustained on Farms (2019–2024)



- Over 700 personal injury claims related to farm accidents were submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024, equating to more than two claims per week.
- This includes 11 claims for fatal accidents which occurred on farms between 2019 and 2024
- In 2024 alone, 108 claims were submitted:
 - 67% involved injured workers
 - 30% involved visitors to farms
 - 3% involved motorists on farm premises
- There was a 29% increase in claims among injured farm workers between 2023 and 2024, rising from 56 to 72 claims.
- In contrast, claims affecting farm visitors decreased by 20% between 2023 and 2024.
- Men accounted for 80% of all farm-related injury claims, while adults aged 55+ represented nearly 1 in 4 cases.
- Animal-related incidents were the most frequent cause of injury on farms, accounting for nearly 1 in 5 accidents. Among these incidents, cattle accounted for 42% of animal-related accidents, followed by horses (33%), dogs (16%) and sheep (4%).
- The most common injuries were:
 - Back injuries (13%)
 - Hand, finger, or thumb injuries (12%)
 - Psychological injuries (8%)
 - Ankle injuries (6%)
- Of note, psychological injuries were most common among workers who reported bullying, harassment, physical abuse, or excessive work pressures on farms.
- In 2024, while 10% of all workplace accident cases assessed by the Board involved serious injuries, this figure rose to 24% of farm accidents, which more frequently resulted in severe and often life-changing injuries.
- Between 2019 and 2024, over €7.7 million in compensation was awarded for farm-related injuries.
- The counties with the highest total compensation between 2019 and 2024 were:
 - Tipperary – €1.1 million
 - Meath – €707,000
 - Cork – €656,000
- In 2024, the typical value of compensation awarded (the median award value) was €34,802, while the average value of compensation awarded to individuals injured on farms was €46,070.
- This value of compensation is considerably higher than the median award value for other workplace injuries in 2024, at €16,255, attributable to the almost 1 in 4 farm accidents which result in severe and often lifechanging injuries.
- The highest award during the period was €269,945 and related to a fatal workplace accident on a farm.

Infographic Summary

Farm Accidents 2019-2024

Over

700



Farm Accidents 2019-2024



67%

Injured Workers



30%

Injured Visitors



3%

Injured Motorists

On average

2

Farm injury
claims per week



1 in 4

Accidents affected
individuals aged
55 years and older

11

Fatal Farm
Accident Claims

80%

of farm accidents
affected males



€7.7M

in compensation awarded
for injuries sustained
on farms



Meath

€0.7M in compensation awarded
6% of all Farm Accident Claims 2019-2024

Tipperary

€1.1M in compensation awarded
10% of all Farm Accident Claims 2019-2024

Cork

€0.7M in compensation awarded
11% of all Farm Accident Claims 2019-2024

€269,000

Highest value of compensation
awarded for farm accident
between 2019 and 2024



€34,802

Median value of compensation
awarded in 2024

€46,070

Average value of compensation
awarded in 2024

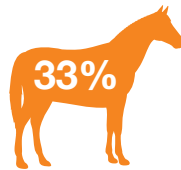
Causes of Farm Accidents

19%

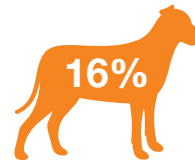
of farm accidents
involved animals



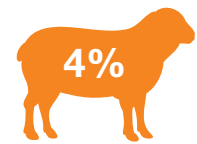
Cattle



Horses



Dogs



Sheep

17%

contact with sharp, projected
or falling objects



15%



fall from a height

13%



slips, trips and falls

13%



crushing injuries

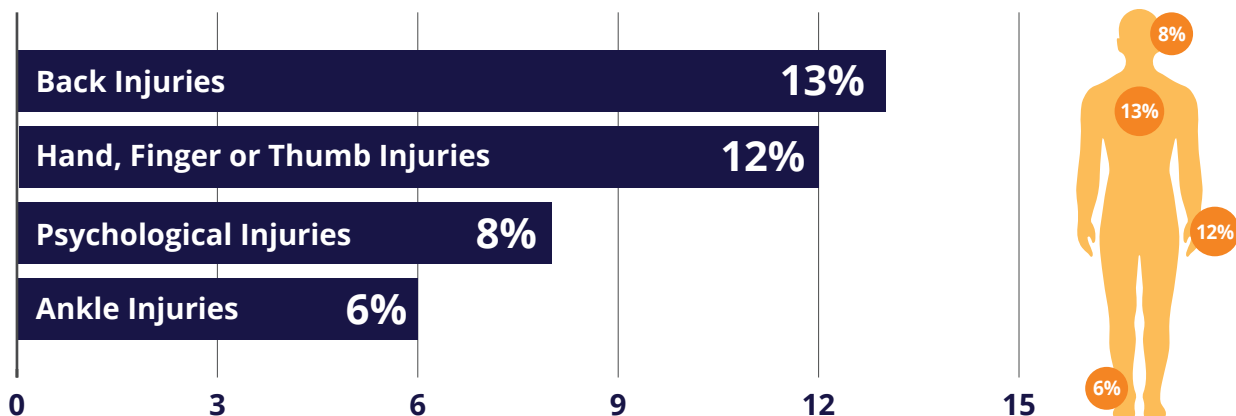
Most Common Injuries

Farm Accidents

Almost in **1 in 4** result in severe injuries

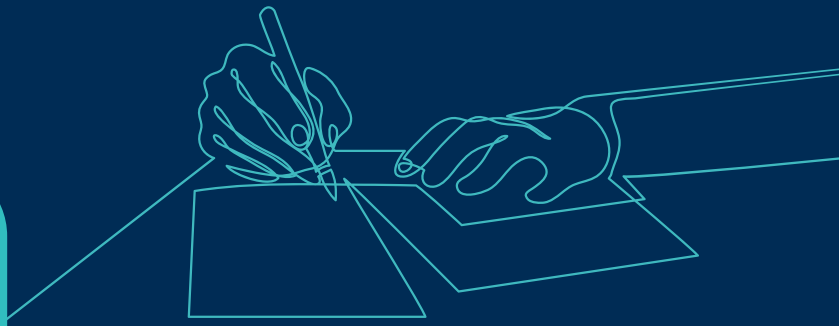
Other Workplace Accidents

1 in 10 result in severe injuries



Psychological injuries were most commonly sustained by farm workers who reported negative work environments, including excessive work pressures.

Introduction



The agricultural sector plays a key role in ensuring national food security, contributing to exports, and sustaining rural livelihoods in Ireland. Despite these significant benefits, the nature of the activities conducted on farms carry inherent risks to both visitors and workers.

While the agricultural and forestry sector employs 6% of the Irish workforce (Agriland, 2024), it carries a disproportionate higher incidence of fatal and serious workplace injuries. In 2021, a report published by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), reported that fatalities which occur on farms account for over 50% of workplace fatalities. Moreover, according to the Agriculture and Food Development Authority in Ireland, Teagasc (2022), nearly 70% of all fatalities that occur on farms are due to incidents involving either tractors, livestock, or farm machinery.

It is estimated that over 4,500 farm accidents occur annually in Ireland, with almost half of such accidents resulting in hospital treatment and significant work absenteeism (Teagasc, 2023). In 2024 alone, 12 farm-related fatalities were recorded by the HSA, highlighting the persistent risk faced by farm workers, despite ongoing health and safety efforts and interventions. The heightened risks faced by workers and visitors to farms have prompted renewed focus on prevention through national strategies such as the HSA's Farm Safety Action Plan 2021-2024 and the current 2025-2027 plan, which target key risk areas including livestock handling, machinery operation, and the safety of vulnerable groups such as older farmers and children (HSA, 2025).

This is the first report published by the Injuries Resolution Board on personal injuries resulting from farm accidents. The aim of this study is to provide a better understanding of the most frequent causes and impacts of accidents on farms, including the identification of groups at higher risk of sustaining injuries in farm-related accidents. The report examines personal injury claims resulting from farm-related accidents which were submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024. The dataset includes 709 claims, and 167 assessments of compensation made during this period, resulting in over €7 million in compensation awarded over this 6-year timeframe.

Each farm accident analysed in this study is based on data supplied in personal injury claim applications submitted by claimants and cross-referenced with medical reports. This claims-related data provides information on the nature and cause of injuries, the body parts affected, demographic characteristics of claimants, and the value of compensation awarded for the injuries sustained.

Understanding both the frequency and severity of farm accidents is essential to improving safety outcomes. A recent study conducted in 2024 by Teagasc, in collaboration with University College Dublin, highlighted that livestock are a leading cause of serious farm injuries, accounting for 47% of all non-fatal injuries. Fall-related accidents, specifically falls from height or uneven surfaces, remain one of the leading causes of serious and fatal injuries on Irish farms (HSA, 2023). These accidents often result from poor maintenance of working areas, inadequate use of protective equipment, or unsafe practices during routine tasks on farms.

Previous literature has highlighted demographic patterns in farm-related accidents. Older farmers aged 55 and above, are at an increased risk of sustaining fatal injuries on farms, while overall, men are statistically five times more likely to be involved in a fatal accident on farms than women (Agriland, 2023). Additionally, research shows a greater proportion of accidents occur in farmyards rather than in fields or on surrounding roadways, underlining the need to better understand the risks posed in the day-to-day operations on farms.

By analysing over 700 personal injury claims in this context, this report aims to identify trends in claims and compensation for injuries sustained on farms over time, assess the main causes of these injuries, explore the demographic groups most at risk, and evaluate the financial impact in terms of the value of compensation awarded. Ultimately, this report aims to provide the evidence required to inform the development of national farm safety policies and interventions.

Study Methodology



This section presents an overview of the methodologies used to gather and analyse the data that has been utilised to prepare this report.

Study overview

This study analyses data on personal injury claims and assessments of compensation related to farm accidents. The dataset used in the preparation of this study includes 709 claims submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2024 and 167 assessments of compensation made during this period for accidents which occurred on farms.

The primary aim of this study is to support improved safety on farms for farmers, workers, and visitors. Through this analysis, the Injuries Resolution Board seeks to contribute to that goal by identifying trends in farm-related accidents over time, examining the leading cause of these accidents, and highlighting the demographic groups most at risk of injury.

Study population

The study population consists of 709 claim applications made for personal injuries sustained in farm-related accidents and 167 assessments of compensation made between 2019 and 2024. The claims and awards included in this study were limited to accidents occurring in Ireland.

Data analysis

As Ireland's statutory body for resolving personal injury claims, the Injuries Resolution Board collects data on more than 20,000 accidents annually. These include road traffic accidents, workplace injuries, public liability accidents, and Garda compensation scheme claims. The majority of claims included in this report are Employer Liability claims (63%) and Public Liability (35%), which together account for 98% of all claims related to farm accidents.

Therefore, this report primarily focuses on these two types of claims. It is also worth noting that Motor Liability claims represent only 2% of all claims for injuries sustained in farm-related accidents between 2019 and 2024, while Garda compensation claims have been excluded from the scope of this analysis.

Claims classified as Public Liability refer to claims made in relation to injuries sustained by members of the public when visiting a farm. In contrast, Employer liability claims relate to injuries sustained by workers on farms in the course of completing their professional duties. This report exclusively analyses accidents that occurred on farms, based on data extracted solely from application forms where "farm" was selected as the location of the accident.

The data analysed in this report includes variables related to the injured party such as age at the date of the accident, gender, description of the injuries sustained, award values, and county of residence. Although the county where the accident occurred was not available for all claims, the county of residence for each claimant was recorded. Therefore, the geographical breakdown of claims presented in this report is based on the claimant's county of residence, which was extracted from the home addresses provided at the time of claim submission. Additionally, while 13 claimants reported home addresses outside Ireland, specifically in counties in the United Kingdom and EU Member States, this analysis focuses exclusively on individuals whose county of residence is within Ireland.

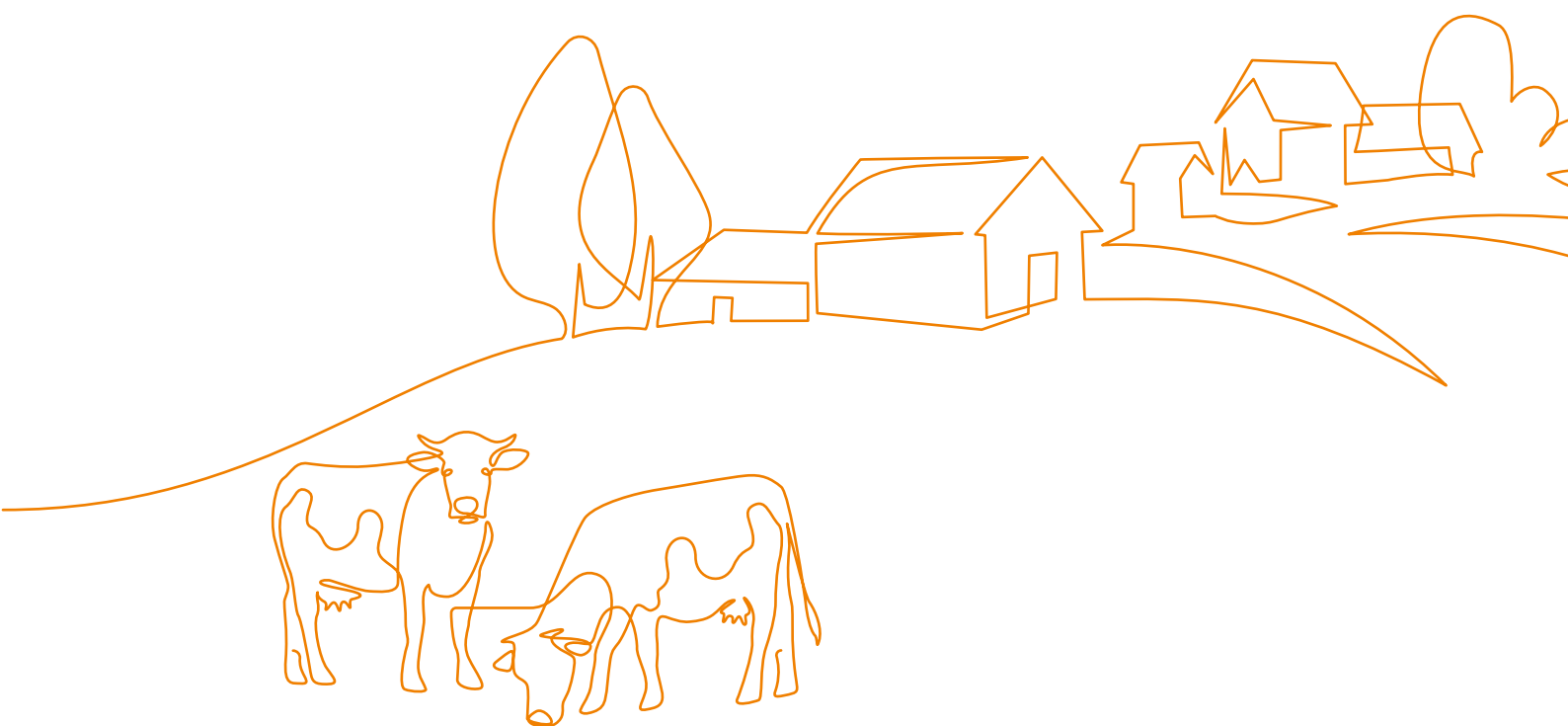
Finally, the external causes of injuries were extracted from the descriptions of how accidents occurred within claim application forms. In cases where limited data was available or if the primary cause remained unclear, this information was extracted from medical reports related to the incident. Information on the primary injury sustained was similarly extracted from the claim application form or accompanying medical report and was classified based on the body part affected. In cases where more than one injury type was listed in the claim application form or medical report, the injury of greatest severity was included in analyses.

Study strength and limitations

This study comprehensively examines all claim applications for personal injuries sustained in farm-related accidents submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2024. Additionally, this report examines all assessments of compensation made by the Board for injuries sustained on farms during this period. This study draws on data from detailed application forms submitted by claimants, which are cross-referenced with medical reports to capture specific information on the nature of injuries sustained and the most common causes of accidents. In addition, demographic data including age, gender, and county of residence were available for all claimants, with no missing records. These findings contribute to a broader understanding of farm-related accidents.

While this study offers valuable insights, it is subject to certain limitations. Firstly, the study only includes accidents in which the claimants or injured parties have submitted a personal injury claim and therefore, excludes incidents where injured individuals did not pursue compensation, or cases which were settled early directly with an insurer. It is important to note that all cases not settled early directly with insurers, must be submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board, including those which are ultimately resolved through litigation.

Finally, due to missing data on the location of some incidents, the study categorises accidents by the claimant's county of residence rather than the county where the accident occurred. While this approach ensures consistency in geographical analysis, it may not fully reflect the distribution of accident locations across the country.



Part 1

Analysis of Farm Accidents 2019-2024

The Injuries Resolution Board received a total of 709 personal injury claims related to farm accidents between 2019-2024, averaging around two claims per week every year. In 2024, 108 total claims were submitted to the Board, representing a 10% increase on the 98 claims submitted in 2023, but a 20% fall on the volume of claims submitted in 2019.

In 2020, over 130 claims were submitted to the Board which is the highest number of claims recorded over the six-year period. The volume of claims declined in the following years, reaching a low in 2023 before increasing in 2024 (**Figure 1**). These findings are consistent with data from the HSA, which indicate an 18% rise in non-fatal farm accidents from 2019 to 2020, followed by a decline from 2020 to 2023.

Figure 1

Volume of farm-related claims, 2019-2024

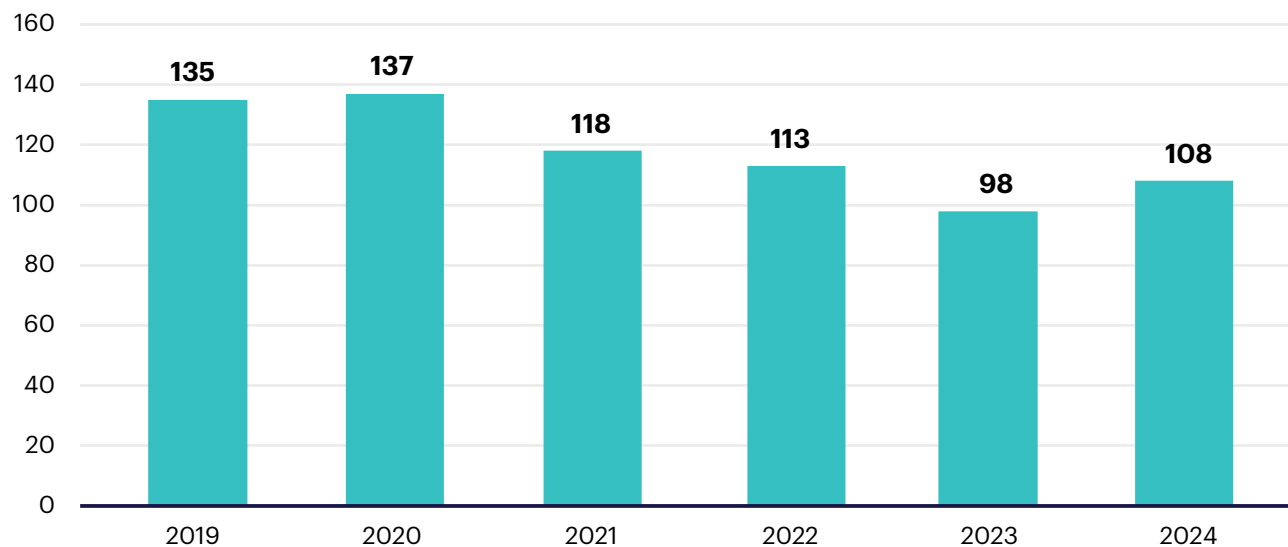


Figure 2

Volume of farm-related claims by type of liability, 2019-2024

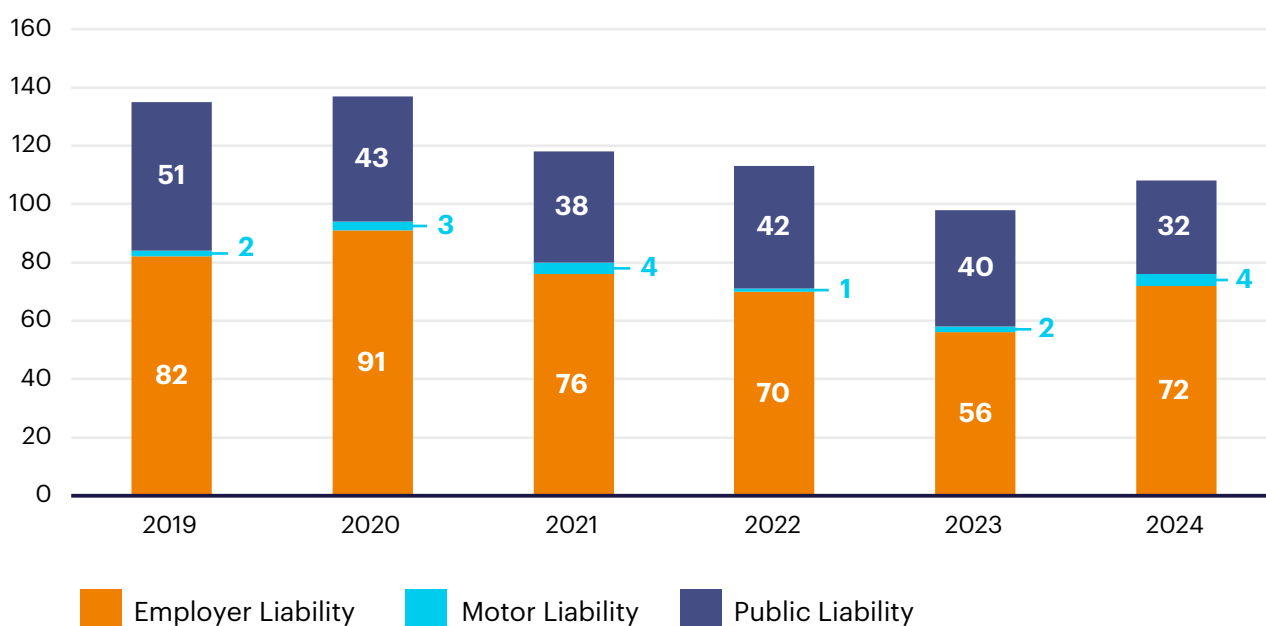


Figure 2 presents the volume of farm-related claims by type of liability from 2019 to 2024. In 2024, a majority of the claims (67%) were employer liability claims, while 30% were Public Liability claims and only 3% fell under the motor liability category. This pattern is consistent across each year since 2019, with most claims submitted falling under employer liability category. This indicates that most farm-related accidents during this period involved workers on farm sites.

Between 2023 and 2024, Employer Liability claims increased by approximately 29%, rising from 56 to 72 claims. In contrast, Public Liability claims showed a steady annual decline over the six-year period, dropping from 51 in 2019 to 32 in 2024.

Demographic characteristics of people injured on farms

Table 1 presents the distribution of personal injury claims submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024, categorised by the claimant's age at the date of incident and compared with the national age distribution from the 2022 census in Ireland. The majority of claims (23%) were submitted by individuals aged 35-44 years, who represent 15% of the Irish population.

The age distribution also varies by claim type. In Employer Liability claims, more than 1 in 4 claimants were aged 35-44, highlighting a concentration within the core working-age population. In contrast, Public Liability claims were more evenly distributed but peaked in the 45-54 age group (22%), which makes up 14% of the population.

Overall, claims increased from the 25-34 age group, highest among those aged 35-44, and declined among older age categories. Despite under-20s representing the largest population group (26%), they accounted for only 8% of all claims. This suggests that workplace and public accident claims are concentrated among adults of working-age, with Employer Liability claims particularly dominant in the 25-64 age group, and Public Liability claims showing a broader age spread.

Table 1

Proportion of claimants by age category and type of liability between 2019-2024

Claim Type	0-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Percentage of Population (Irish Census 2022)	26%	6%	12%	15%	14%	11%	15%
Employer Liability	4%	8%	19%	27%	22%	16%	4%
Public Liability	19%	5%	9%	17%	20%	16%	13%
Total ¹	8%	8%	15%	23%	22%	16%	8%

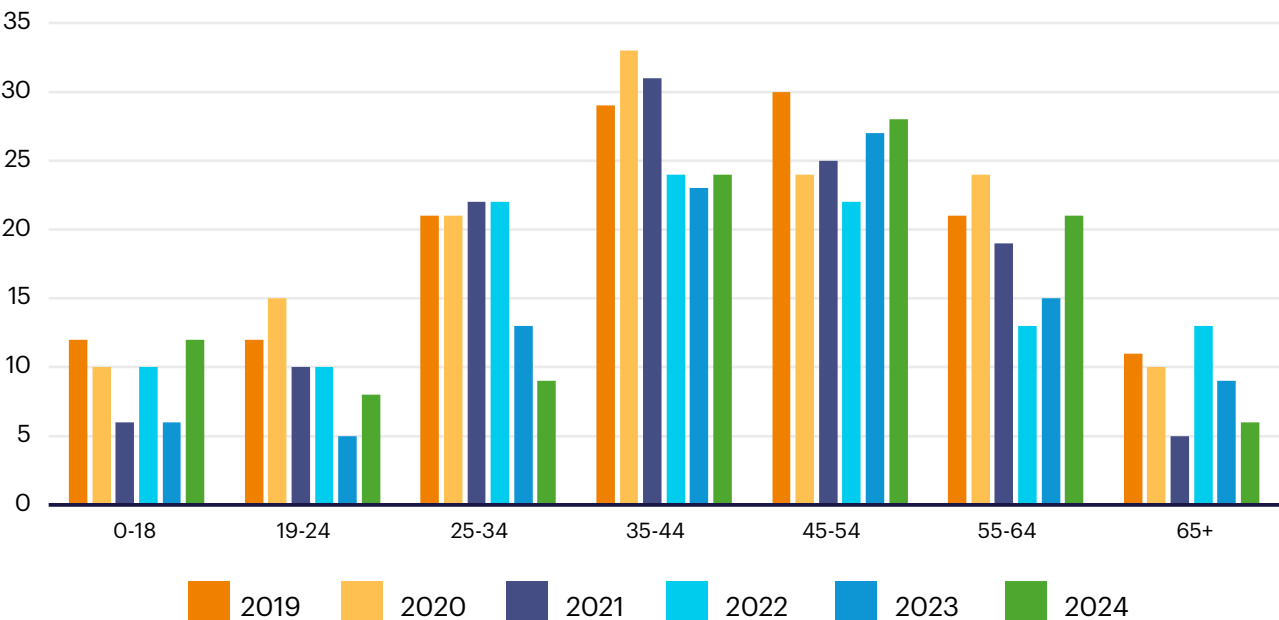
As presented in **Figure 3**, the total volume of farm incidents decreased for most age categories between 2019 and 2024, while a few age categories remained stable.

Between 2019 and 2024, the largest percentage drop in farm injury claims was among those aged 25-34 years, which saw a significant reduction of 57%. Significant declines were also observed in adults aged 65+, with a 45% decrease, and the 19-24 age group, which experienced a 33% reduction.

Less significant decreases were noted in the 35-44 age group (-17%) and the 45-54 age group (-7%). Conversely, farm injury claims remained unchanged for both the 0-18 years and 55-64 years age groups, showing no change from 2019.

Figure 3

Age demographics of individuals injured on farms



1 Note: Total includes all types of liability. However, Motor Liability has been excluded from the table due to the low number of claims, in order to prevent potential case identification

Figure 4

Farm-related claims between 2019-2024 based on Claimant's Gender

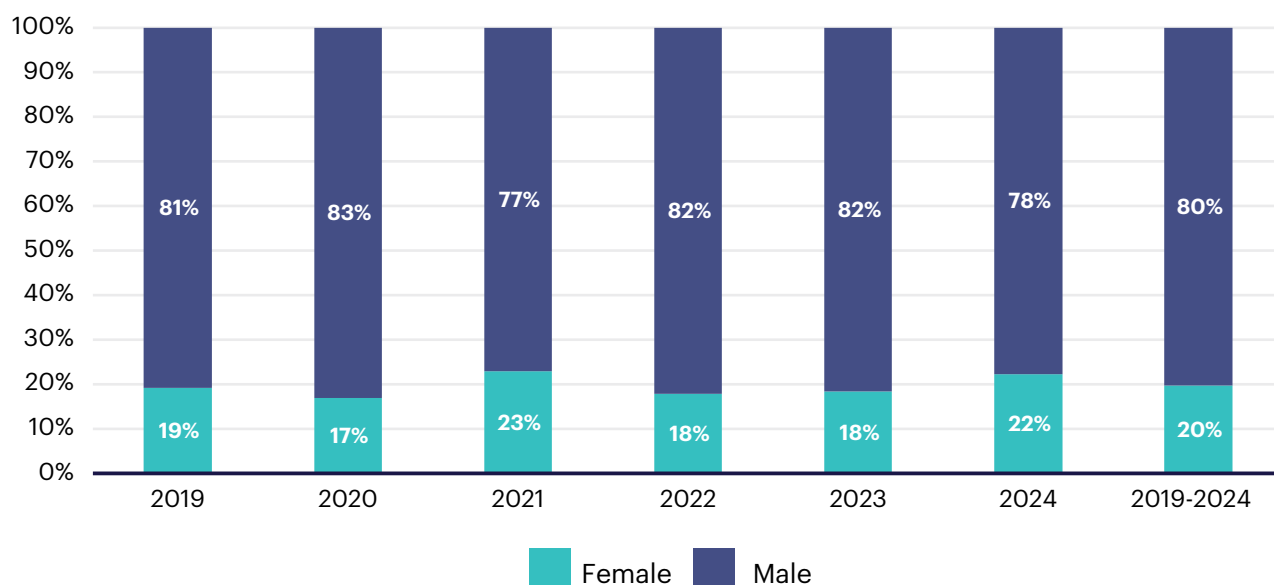


Figure 4 shows a breakdown of farm-related claims submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024, categorised by the gender of the claimant. The findings highlight a consistent pattern across the years whereby male individuals represent most claimants in farm related accidents. These findings are in line with data from the recent census of Agriculture in Ireland that report male individuals to represent a majority of farm holders in Ireland. Despite this consistent low trend in female claimants, there was a slight increase in 2024 as compared to previous years whereby 22% of the claims submitted to the board were from female respondents as compared to 19% submitted in 2019. 2021 saw the highest share of claims submitted from female individuals (23%). Overall, over the 6 years period, 80% of the claims were submitted by male claimants while only 20% were attributable to female claimants.

Table 2

Residential county of individuals injured in Farm-related accidents 2019-2024

County	Number of claims	Percentage of claims
Cork	81	11%
Tipperary	73	10%
Dublin	39	6%
Meath	39	6%
Monaghan	36	5%

County	Number of claims	Percentage of claims
Donegal	34	5%
Limerick	31	4%
Cavan	30	4%
Waterford	30	4%
Kildare	29	4%
Kerry	27	4%
Mayo	26	4%
Galway	25	4%
Kilkenny	25	4%
Wexford	23	3%
Roscommon	22	3%
Offaly	19	3%
Clare	16	2%
Carlow	15	2%
Westmeath	15	2%
Laois	14	2%
Louth	14	2%
Wicklow	14	2%
Leitrim	13	2%
Longford	12	2%
Sligo	7	1%
Total	709	100%

The data presented in **Table 2** summarises the total number of claims submitted to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024, based on the claimant's county of residence. It is important to note that this analysis is based on the home address of the claimant and not the location where the farm-related injury occurred. While the claimant may reside in one county, the accident resulting in the claim submitted may have occurred in a different county.

In the last six years, the Board received a higher frequency of claims from individuals residing in Cork and Tipperary, while the fewest came from individuals residing in Sligo. These findings align with the Central Statistics Office's 2023 Farm Structure Survey report, which identifies Cork and Tipperary as counties with the highest share of farms nationally, 10% and 5%, respectively. This data suggests a significant concentration of farmers in these regions. In contrast, while Dublin accounts for 6% of claims in this report, it accounts for only 1% of all farms in Ireland.

Table 3

Breakdown of the most common causes of farm accidents between 2019 and 2024.

Cause of accident	Number of claims	Percentage of total claims
Animal caused accidents	132	19%
Contact with sharp, projected or falling objects	124	17%
Fall from one level to another	105	15%
Fall on same level from slipping, tripping, and stumbling	93	13%
Caught, crushed, jammed, or pinched in or between objects	89	13%
Other causes	69	10%
Overexertion and strenuous and repetitive movements	38	5%
Contact with agricultural machinery	36	5%
Agricultural vehicle accident	23	3%

Table 3 shows the breakdown of the most common causes of farm-related accidents as submitted by claimants to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024. The most common cause of farm-related accidents include animal caused accidents, accounting for 19% or almost 1 in 5 of all total farm-related accidents. These include accidents which involve biting, striking, or attacking individuals and animal-related falls, which in this context refer to incidents where an animal's movements or actions cause a person to fall and sustain injuries. Another significant cause of accidents in farms is contact with agricultural hand tools and falls from one level to another. Despite accounting for only 3% of all farm-related accidents between 2019 and 2024, agricultural vehicles such as tractors, quadbikes, and loaders also present safety concern in farms.

Figure 5

Type of animals that were involved in farm-related accidents between 2019 and 2024.

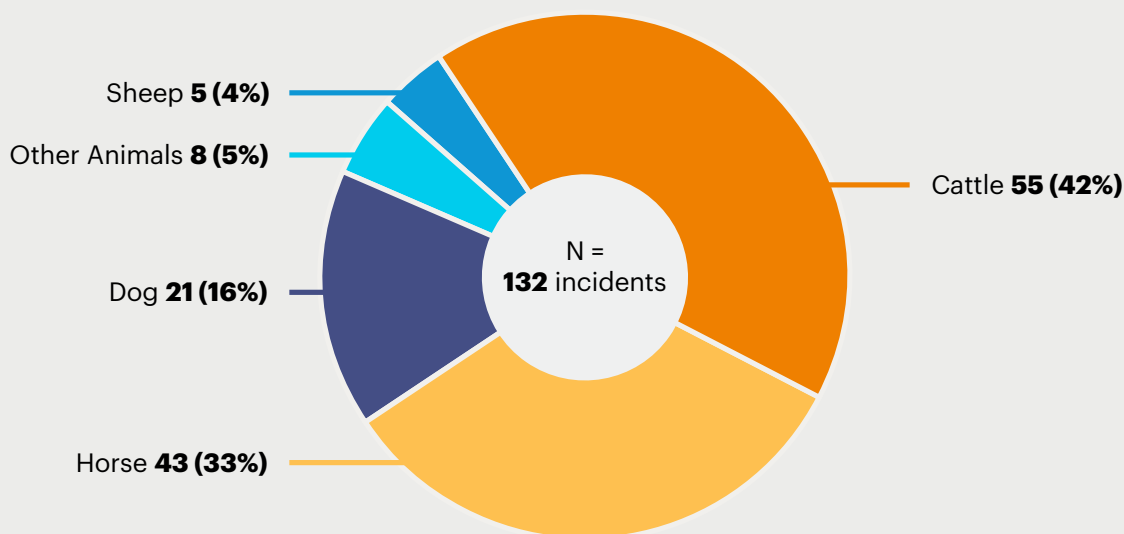


Figure 5 provides a summary of animals that led to farm-related accidents. Out of the 132 animal related accidents that were analysed from claims submitted to the Board between 2019 and 2024, 42% of these were caused by cattle. The specific kind of cattle that were frequently listed in the claims included cows, heifers, and bulls. Horses (33%) and dogs (16%) were also major contributors to farm accidents, with sheep accounting for only 4% of all animal-related injury claims.



Figure 6

Analysis of body parts injured in farm related accidents (2019-2024)

	Body part affected	Percentage of farm accidents 2019-2024
1	back	13%
2	other body parts	8%
3	psychological injury	8%
4	finger or thumb	7%
5	ankle	6%
6	wrist	6%
7	neck	6%
8	leg	6%
9	arm including elbow	6%
10	hand	6%
11	shoulder	6%
12	knee	5%
13	head injuries	5%
14	foot	4%
15	facial area	4%
16	eye	3%
17	chest	1%

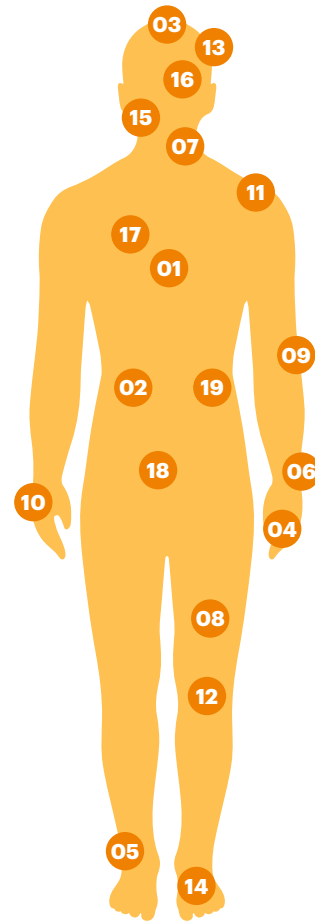


Figure 6 summarises the proportion of body parts most commonly injured in farm accidents, as reported by Claimants to the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024. Injuries to the back were frequently sustained, representing 13% of all injuries. Other body parts, including ears, ribs, hips, and stomach accounted for 8% of all reported injuries. Of the 709 claims submitted, 8% reported psychological injuries including depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Neck and ankle injuries each constituted 6% of all injuries sustained on farms during this period.

Figure 7

Causes of farm-related accidents and the specific body parts injured between 2019-2024.

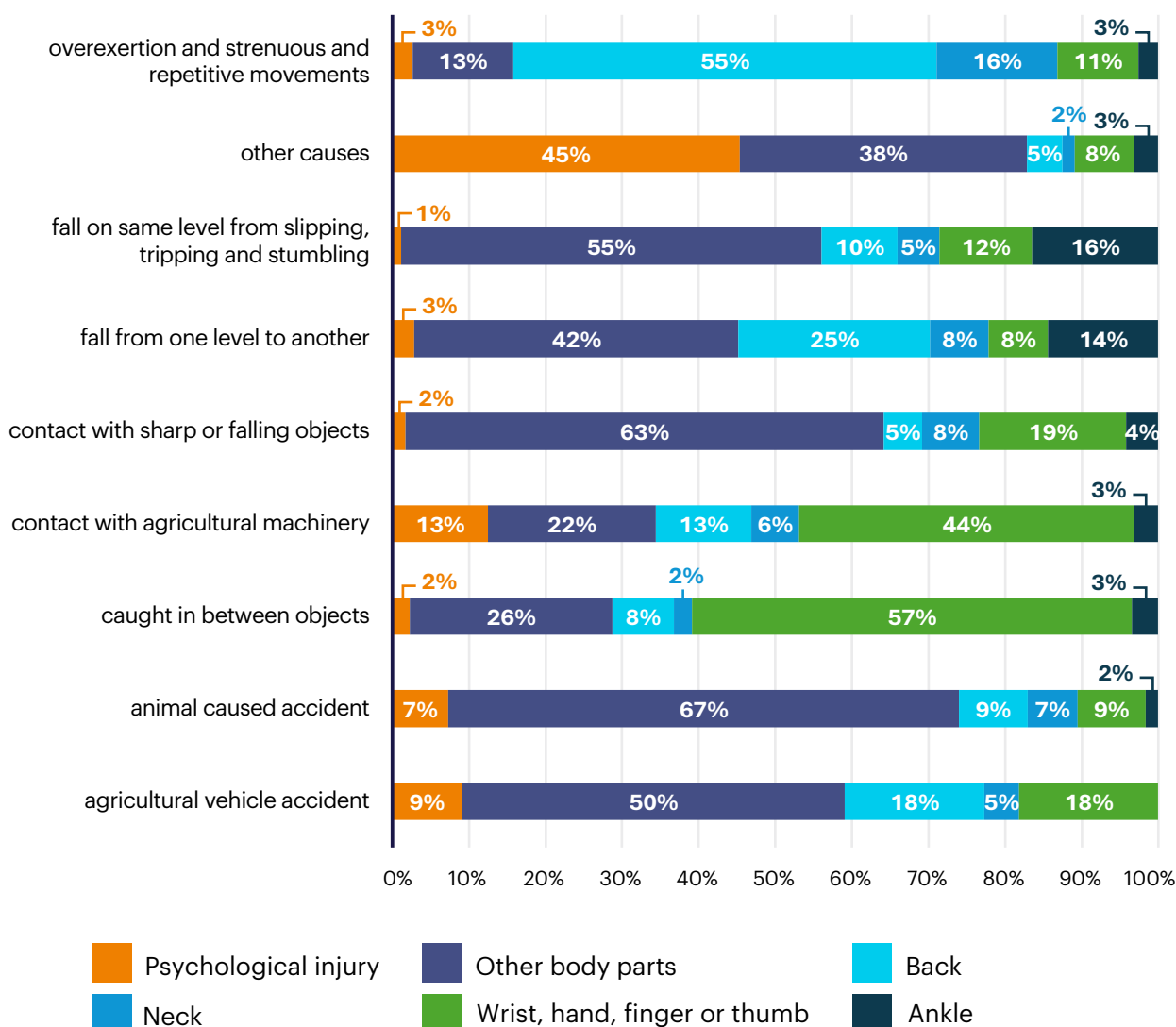


Figure 7 shows the most commonly injured body parts across the most frequent causes of farm-related accidents between 2019 and 2024. The most notable pattern is that injuries to “other body parts” such as legs, head, arms, and shoulders dominate all causes, especially in animal induced accidents (67%), accidents caused by contact with sharp or falling objects (63%) and falls from slipping (55%).

For animal-caused accidents, the most common injuries classified under “other body parts” include injuries to arms (13%), knees (12%), legs (11%), shoulders (11%), as well as facial injuries (10%). This demonstrates the diverse impacts of animal accidents beyond typical crushing or trampling. Furthermore, for incidents involving contact with

sharp or falling objects, which also show a high proportion of injuries in “other body parts”, the breakdown indicates that eyes (27%), head (16%), legs (12%), as well as shoulders (8%) make up the majority of injuries for this cause of farm accidents.

Other body parts which were commonly injured on farms, include wrist, hand, finger, or thumb injuries, which accounts for 57% of injuries caused by being caught in between objects and 44% among accidents caused by adverse contact with agricultural machinery. Back injuries are most prevalent in overexertion and repetitive movements, accounting for 55% of cases, which may reflect the physical strain and exertion involved in farm-related activities.

Psychological injuries were sustained in 13% of accidents involving adverse contact with agricultural machinery, suggesting that this type of accident may lead to traumatic events which carry long-term mental health impacts. A closer examination of other causes that lead to psychological injuries identified that a portion of these injuries stem from distressing workplace experiences, including reports of physical abuse, bullying and excessive work pressures.

Ankle injuries are relatively uncommon overall but appear more in fall-related incidents. Neck injuries are also not prominent in most categories; however, they are more prevalent among accidents caused by overexertion and repetitive movements. Overall, these findings highlight the strong link between certain causes of accidents and specific body part injuries, especially the overwhelming association of animal-related incidents and sharp or falling objects with injuries to other body parts such as arms, legs, eyes, and shoulders.

Psychological injuries were sustained in **13%** of accidents involving adverse contact with agricultural machinery, suggesting that this type of accident may lead to traumatic events which carry long-term mental health impacts.

Part 2

Personal Injury Compensation for Farm-related Accidents 2019-2024

This section of the report provides an overview of 167 assessments of compensations made by the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024 for farm-related accidents. We analyse trends in the value of awards, broken down by the year of assessment, claim category, external causes, type of damage, and the claimant's county of residence. Furthermore, we examine key award value statistics from 2019 to 2024, including the maximum and minimum award values for each year, as well as the average and median award amounts.

Figure 8 presents the number of assessments of compensation made by the Injuries Resolution Board from 2019 to 2024 in respect of farm-related accidents. During this period, the Board made a total of 167 assessments of compensation for injuries sustained in farm-related accidents, of which 102 related to Employer Liability awards, 61 to Public Liability awards, and 4 to motor Liability awards. In 2024, the Board made a total of 25 awards which is a 25% increase of awards compared to 2019. The number of awards for injuries sustained in farm-related accidents increased each year from 2019 to 2023, before dropping by 30% in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Figure 8

Total number of awards for farm-related accidents (2019-2024)

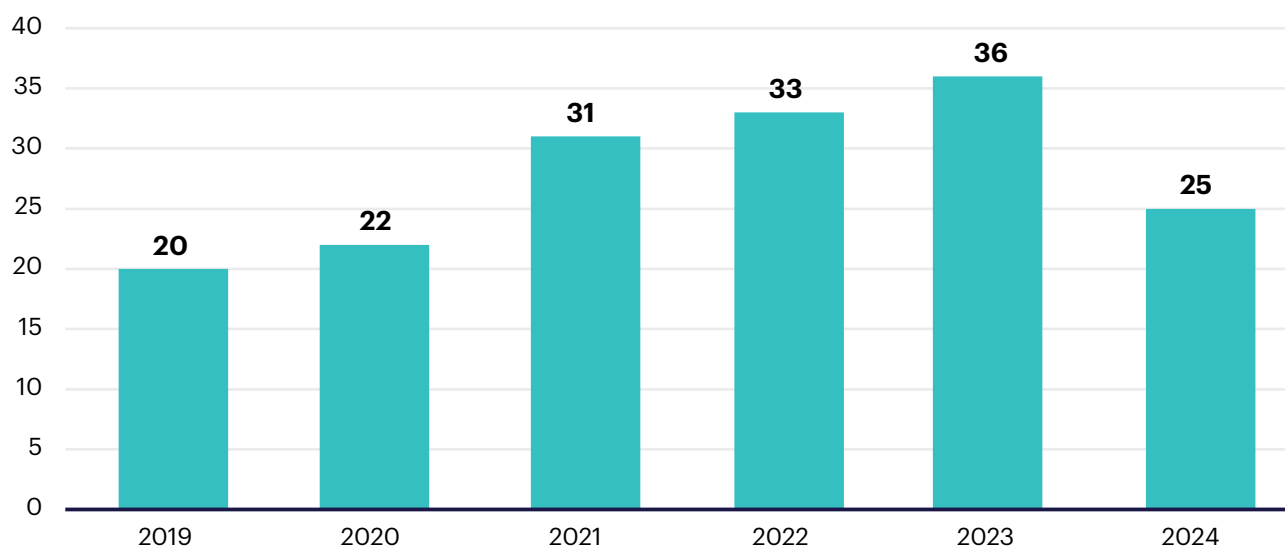


Figure 9

Proportion of awards for farm-related accidents made each year based on Liability category (2019-2024)

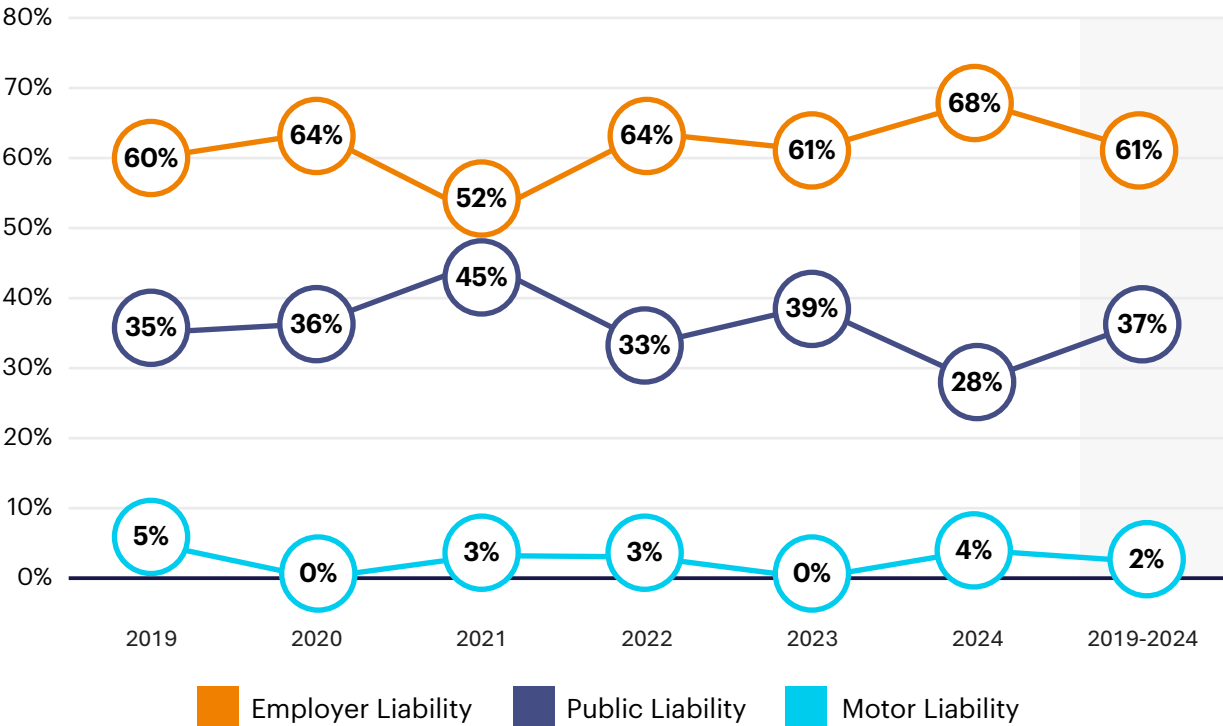


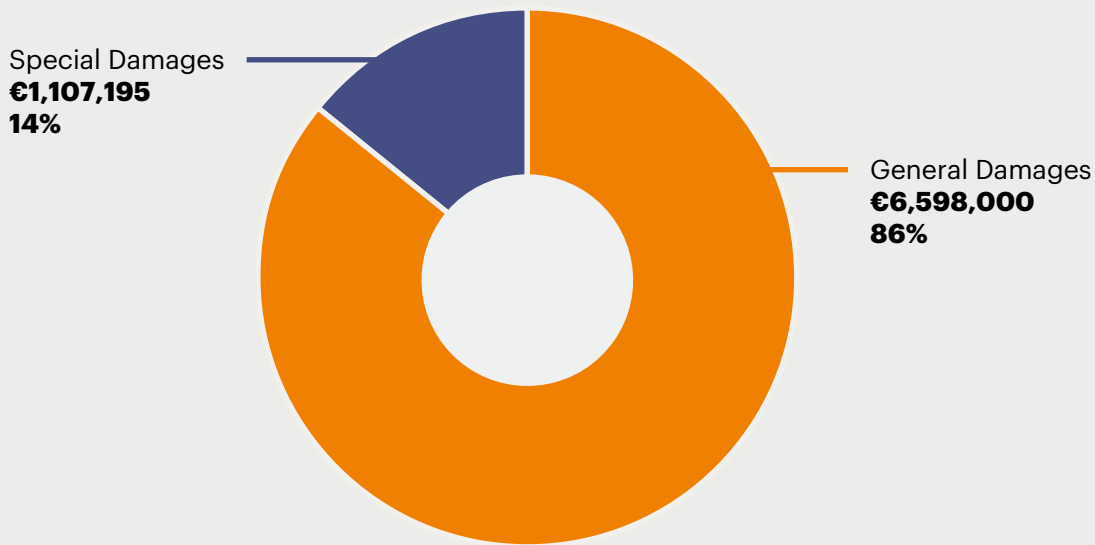
Figure 9 shows the trend in awards for farm-related accidents across the three main claim categories. Employer liability consistently accounted for the largest share of awards over the six-year period, showing a general upward trajectory from 2019 and reaching a peak of 68% in 2024. This increase reflects the growing volume of workplace injuries associated with farm-related claims submitted to the Board during this period, as discussed in an earlier section of this report.

Public liability represents the second most common category, with awards peaking at 45% in 2021 before declining to 28% in 2024. In contrast, Motor Liability has consistently held the smallest share of awards, with no awards recorded in 2020 and 2023, and a modest increase to 4% in 2024.

Overall, from 2019 to 2024, the Board issued a significantly higher proportion of awards under Employer Liability than under either of the other two categories.

Figure 10

Total Value of awards based on General Damages and Special Damages between 2019-2024



From 2019 to 2024, the total value of compensation awarded by the Injuries Resolution Board was €7,705,195. 86% of the total value of awards was in respect of General Damages, the award for the pain and suffering experienced by the Claimant as a result of the injuries sustained, while only 14% of the total value was awarded under special damages, which refers to the compensation awarded for financial losses such as medical bills, lost wages or repairs.

Figure 11

Total Value of Awards by year (2019-2024)

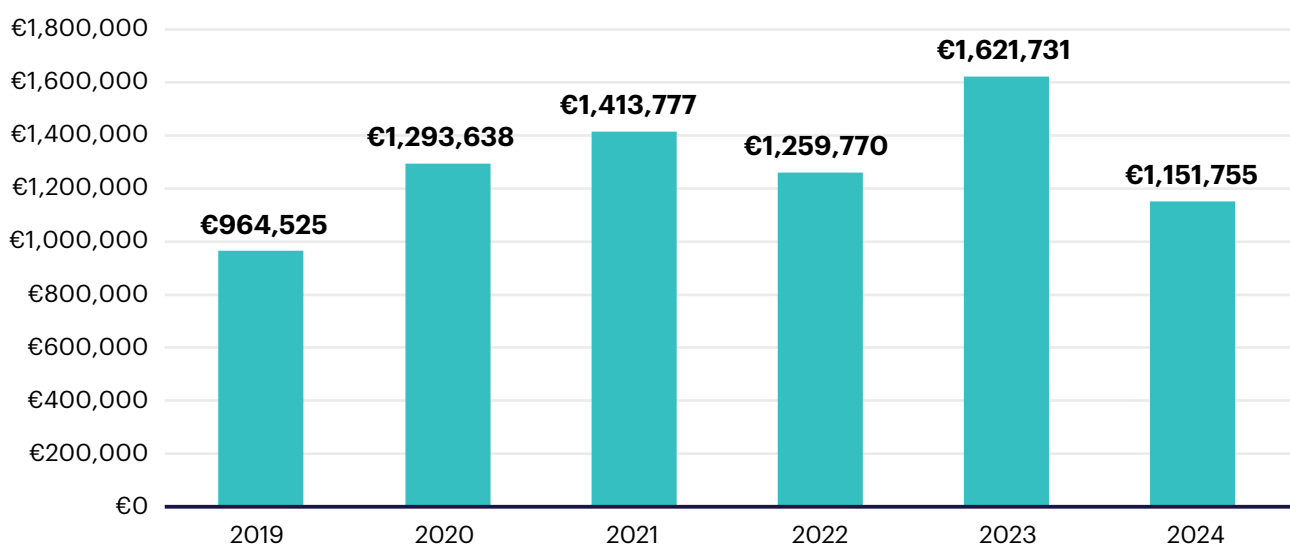


Figure 11 shows the total value of compensation awarded by the Injuries Resolution Board for injuries sustained in farm accidents between 2019 and 2024. In 2019, the total value of awards made by the Board was €964,525, the lowest recorded over the six-year period. However, the total value increased steadily from 2019 to 2021 and decreased by 17% in 2022 as compared to the previous year.

The highest total compensation was awarded in 2023, amounting to €1,621,731, which represents a 68% increase compared to the total value of awards made in 2019. Despite the overall upward trend from 2019, 2024 saw a 29% decrease in the total value of awards for farm-related injuries compared to 2023. Overall, this trend indicates that award values are proportional to the total number of awards assessed annually by the Injuries Resolution Board, implying that as more awards are issued, the total compensation amounts also increase.

Figure 12

The total value of Awards based on claim categories from 2019 to 2024

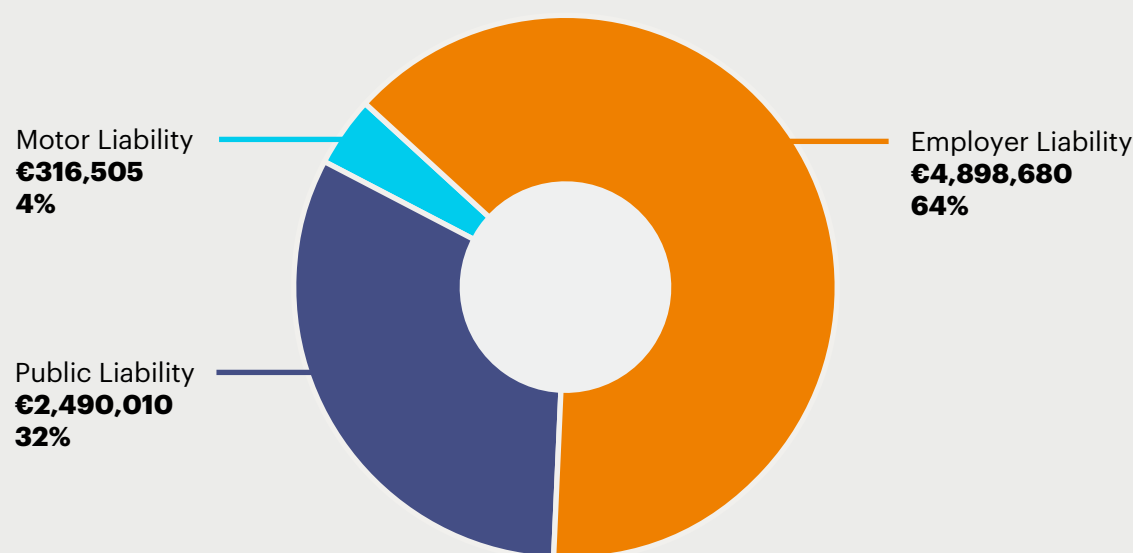


Figure 12 presents the total value of awards by claim category from 2019 to 2024. Over the six-year period, the largest share of compensation was awarded under Employer Liability claims, amounting to €4,898,680, which represents 64% of all awards issued by the Board. This aligns to this category's higher claim volume of 447 claims submitted to the Board during this period. Public liability claims accounted for 32% of the total value of awards during the same period. In comparison, Motor Liability claims received only 4% of the total compensation, with a total value of €316,505.



Figure 13

Total value of Awards based on the most common causes of farm accidents (2019-2024)

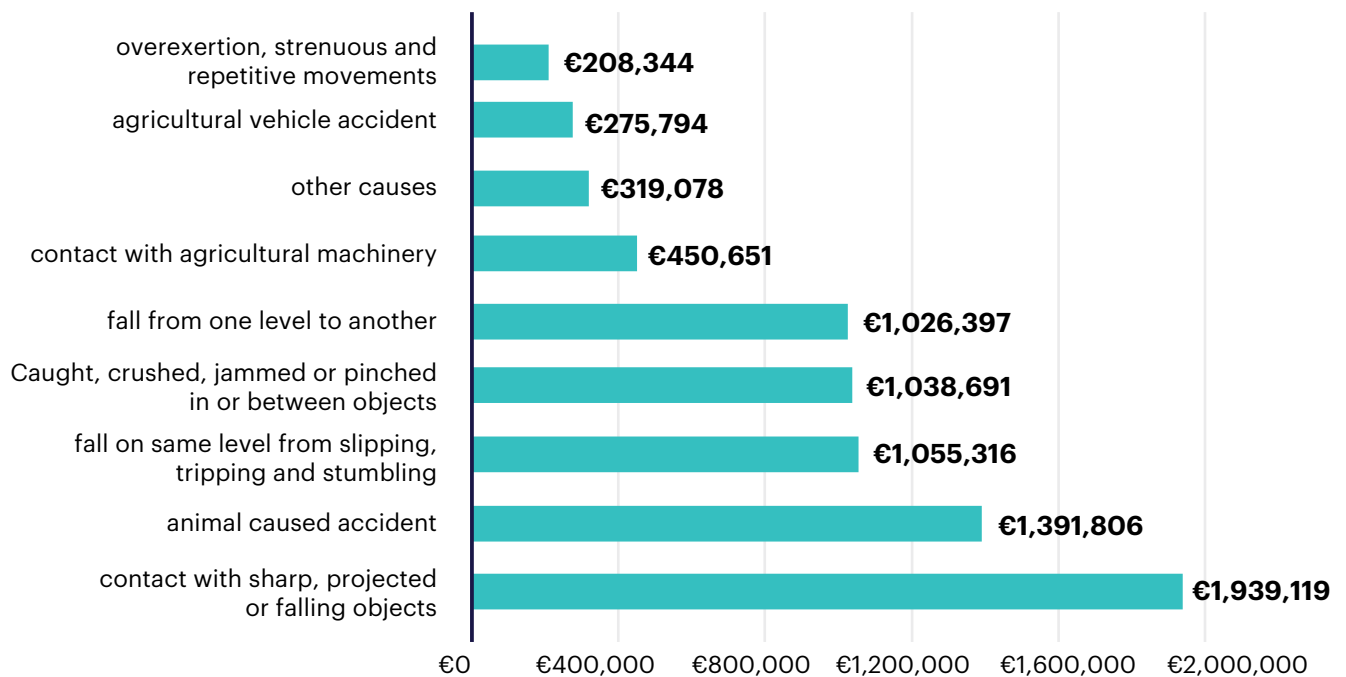


Figure 13 describes the total value of awards made between 2019 and 2024, categorised by the most common causes of injuries in farm-related accidents. Contact with sharp, projected, or falling objects such as metal and steel beams, tailgates, and cattle crushes accounted for the highest total value of awards at approximately €1,939,119. This is followed by animal caused accidents, with a total award value of €1,391,806.

These findings align with the data presented in the claims section of this report, where these two causes accounted for over 30% of all claims submitted to the Board between 2019-2024. Moreover, they represent more than 40% of all the awards made, highlighting the heightened risk associated with working with animals and sharp objects on farms. In contrast, overexertion, strenuous, and repetitive movements accounted for only 3% of the total award value, which is equivalent to €208,344. This was the lowest among the nine most common causes of farm-related accidents.

Table 4

Total Award Values by year, 2019-2024

Award Range	<€20k	€20k-<40k	€40k-<60k	€60k-<80k	€80k-<100k	€100k+
2019	15%	25%	35%	15%	5%	5%
2020	14%	27%	27%	18%	5%	9%
2021	39%	23%	10%	16%	6%	6%
2022	33%	30%	18%	9%	3%	6%
2023	19%	39%	11%	17%	8%	6%
2024	16%	36%	24%	12%	8%	4%
Total	24%	31%	19%	14%	6%	6%

Table 4 shows the distribution of personal injury awards for farm-related accidents by award value ranges from 2020 to 2024. The data indicates that most assessments of compensation during the six-year period were valued at €20,000 or more. In 2019, the majority of awards (60%) fell within the €20,000 and €60,000 range. This proportion declined slightly in the subsequent years, dropping to 54% in 2020 and further to 33% in 2021. However, the share of awards within this range increased again to 48% in 2022 and 50% in 2023, before matching the 2019 level of 60% in 2024.

There is slight variation in the distribution of awards across the years. While the majority of awards were valued between €40,000 and €60,000 in both 2019 and 2020, the highest concentration of awards in 2021 and 2022 shifted to the lower range of less than €20,000. Furthermore, in 2023 and 2024, a greater proportion of awards were recorded in the €20,000 and €40,000 award range.

Higher award values ranging from €80,000 represented a smaller proportion of total awards in each year from 2019 to 2024. In 2022, only 9% of awards exceeded €80,000, while in all other years this category made up no more than 14% of total awards. In addition, 2021 recorded the highest share of low-value awards under €20,000 (39%), whereas higher-value awards exceeding €100,000 were most frequently made in 2020 (9%).

Overall, in the six-year period, most assessments of compensation were valued between €20,000 and €39,999 (31%) followed by 24% of awards valued less than €20,000.

Table 5

Annual Award value statistics by year, 2019-2024

Year	Minimum Award Value	Maximum Award Value	Average Award Value	Median Award Value
2019	€5,100	€153,500	€48,226	€44,127
2020	€8,160	€228,685	€58,802	€50,000
2021	€1,945	€269,945	€45,606	€31,074
2022	€3,670	€175,787	€38,175	€25,936
2023	€2,000	€151,877	€45,048	€37,118
2024	€8,812	€179,519	€46,070	€34,802

Table 5 summarises annual award statistics of the award values issued by the Injuries Resolution Board from 2019 to 2024. The lowest award value issued by the Board during this period was €1,945 in 2021. In 2024, the minimum award increased to €8,812, representing a 73% rise compared to 2019. The maximum award value issued in 2024 was €179,519, which reflects a 17% increase compared to 2019 and a 33% decrease compared to the peak value of €269,945 awarded in 2021. This 2021 figure represents the highest award issued by the Board over the entire six-year period.

In 2019, the average award value issued by the Injuries Resolution Board was €48,226. This increased to €58,802 in 2020, representing a 22% rise compared to 2019. Notably, €58,802 stands as the highest average award value issued by the Board over the six-year period. In 2024, the average award value rose by 2% compared to 2023 but remained 4% lower than the 2019 average.

Overall, this data reveals fluctuations in average award values across the years. The changes can be attributed to the introduction of the Personal Injuries Guidelines in April 2021 and variations in the severity of injuries assessed across the period.

To account for the severity of injuries which can result in some claims receiving high awards, median award values were also analysed for each year. The median value represents the typical compensation awarded to claimants and is less affected by extreme values compared to the average value. In 2019, the median award value was €44,127. This increased by 13% in 2020 to €50,000, which was also the highest median award value during the six-year period. However, from 2020 onwards, the median value award declined and reached its lowest point in 2022 at €25,936. In 2024, the median award value decreased by 6% compared to 2023 and by 21% compared to 2019.

Table 6

Annual Award value statistics by year, 2019-2024 for Employer Liability Awards

Year	Minimum Award Value	Maximum Award Value	Average Award Value	Median Award Value
2019	€0	€153,500	€49,262	€42,857
2020	€8,160	€228,685	€65,677	€51,770
2021	€1,945	€269,945	€54,206	€32,190
2022	€4,662	€175,787	€47,366	€30,426
2023	€2,000	€130,122	€38,943	€35,006
2024	€8,812	€91,661	€39,373	€32,816

Table 6 summarises the annual award statistics for Employer Liability claims issued by the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024. The highest maximum award was issued in 2021 (€269,945). While 2020 recorded the highest average award (€65,677) and median (€51,770) award values, a notable decline followed in subsequent years. In 2024, the maximum award value dropped to €91,661, and the average and median award values decreased to €39,373 and €32,816, respectively. Overall, the data reflect a trend of declining award values following a peak in 2020-2021.

Table 7

Annual Award value statistics by year, 2019-2024 for Public Liability Awards

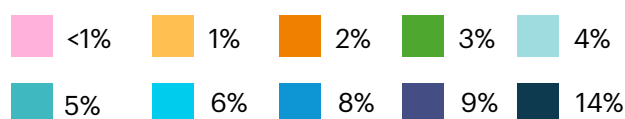
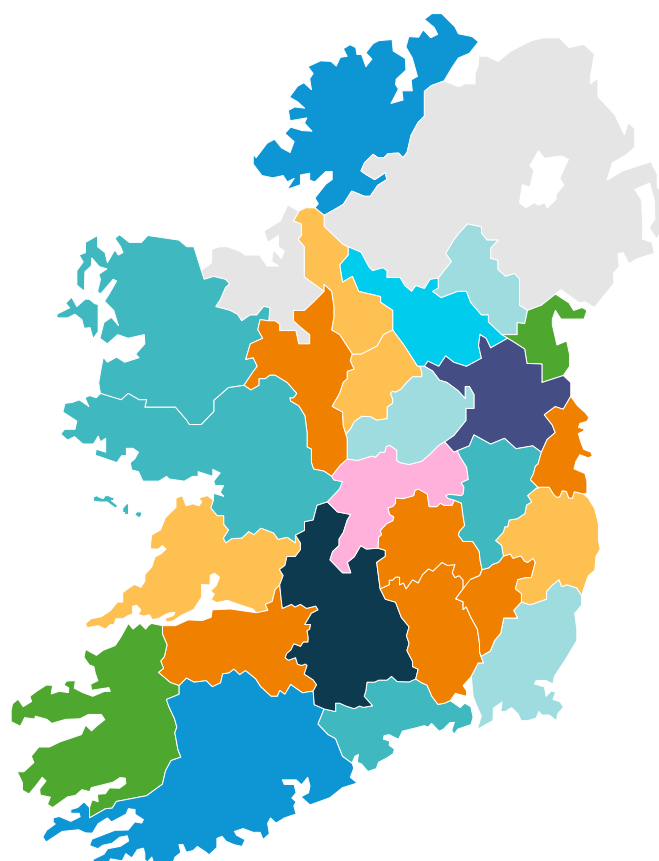
Year	Minimum Award Value	Maximum Award Value	Average Award Value	Median Award Value
2019	€5,100	€95,274	€47,524	€45,000
2020	€15,100	€82,966	€46,771	€43,878
2021	€3,750	€79,261	€35,179	€23,753
2022	€3,670	€49,315	€20,254	€20,082
2023	€6,450	€151,877	€54,641	€46,117
2024	€9,450	€71,506	€43,271	€42,048

Table 7 presents the yearly statistics of award values for Public Liability cases from 2019 to 2024. The peak maximum award was recorded in 2023 at €151,877. 2023 saw the highest average (€54,641) and median (€46,117) award values. While 2019 and 2020 reported relatively stable average and median award values, a notable decline followed in 2021 to 2022, followed by an increase in 2023. By 2024, the award values remained moderate, with a maximum of €71,506, an average of €43,271, and a median of €42,048. Overall, the figures show a fluctuating trend in award values, with a significant increase in 2023.

Table 8

Total compensation and proportion of compensation distributed by county

County of residence	Total compensation	Percentage of total compensation
Tipperary	€1,120,070	14%
Meath	€707,680	9%
Cork	€656,097	8%
Donegal	€584,759	8%
Cavan	€455,607	6%
Kildare	€414,943	5%
Galway	€362,744	5%
Mayo	€356,911	5%
Waterford	€353,415	5%
Monaghan	€334,866	4%
Wexford	€298,659	4%
Westmeath	€288,492	4%
Kerry	€240,922	3%
Louth	€201,280	3%
Dublin	€190,576	2%
Laois	€180,547	2%
Limerick	€173,503	2%
Kilkenny	€162,020	2%
Roscommon	€161,969	2%
Carlow	€156,274	2%
Longford	€107,704	1%
Wicklow	€80,874	1%
Clare	€46,446	1%
Leitrim	€42,845	1%
Offaly	€25,992	<1%
Total	€7,705,195	100%



Tipperary (14%), Meath (9%), and Cork (8%) account for the highest award value of all counties in Ireland. This is proportional to the number of claims submitted to the Board between 2019 and 2024 by residents of the respective counties. While Cork accounted for the highest number of claims, Tipperary and Meath contributed to a greater share of the total award value. This is attributed to both counties having higher median award values than Cork, as well as a greater proportion of awards related to animal accidents and incidents involving contact with sharp, projected, or falling objects. These two were the leading causes of high compensation, as discussed in earlier sections of this report.

Table 8 presents the total value of awards attributed to each county in Ireland, along with the proportion of total awards represented by each county. A total of 167 awards were issued between 2019 and 2024 across 25 counties in Ireland. Sligo is the only county not represented in this analysis, as no claimant from the county received an award during this period.

In contrast, Offaly and Leitrim contributed the lowest proportions of total award value, at 0.3% and 0.6%, respectively. This aligns with the low number of claims submitted from these counties and their comparatively low median award values. Notably, although Dublin accounted for over 5% of total claims submitted, it contributed only 2.4% of the overall award value issued during the period. This disparity suggests that claims originating from Dublin were on average of lower severity and resulted in lower compensation amounts.

When a claim is assessed by the Board, the most significant injury sustained is identified with respect to the Personal Injuries Guidelines. These Guidelines provide severity classifications for the most commonly sustained injuries. **Table 9** shows the severity of injuries for cases in which the most significant injury affected the ankle, back, knee, shoulder or wrist, or cases in which the most significant injury was psychological in nature.

Table 9 shows that the severity on injuries sustained on farms are far greater than the severity of injuries sustained in other accident types. In 2024, 77% of all assessments made by the Board for road traffic, workplace or public setting accidents resulted in minor severity injuries, this compares to just 27% of assessments made for injuries sustained on farms. While 10% of workplace accidents cases assessed by the Board in 2024 related to serious accidents in which individuals sustain severe injuries, almost 1 in 4 of all assessments made for farm related accidents related to severe and often lifechanging injuries (24%).

Table 9

The severity classification of the most common injury types assessed between 2024-2022 among claims related to farm accidents.

2022-2024	Minor Severity	Moderate Severity	Severe Severity
% of Assessments Made	27%	49%	24%





Discussion

Leveraging the extensive repository of data on personal injury claims collected and maintained by the Injuries Resolution Board, Ireland's independent state body for claim resolution, provides valuable insights into the incidence and impact of farm accidents between 2019 and 2024. During this six-year period, the Board received over 700 personal injury claims related to farm accidents and made 167 assessments of compensation which totalled over €7.7 million in compensation.

The data analysed in this report shows the peak volume of farm-related claims occurred in 2020 (137), followed by a decline in subsequent years before increasing again in 2024. Based on claim category specifically, the report shows a 12% decrease in Employer Liability claims and a 37% decrease in Public Liability claims in 2024 compared to 2019. This trend is further supported by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), which reported a 23% decrease in non-fatal workplace incidents in Agriculture in 2023 compared to 2020. This overall reduction could be attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and improvements in health and safety practices and interventions within the agricultural sector.

This report also highlighted demographic patterns in personal injury claims related to farm accidents, with men constituting 80% of all farm-related injury claims. Furthermore, adults aged between 35 and 44 years old were nearly twice as likely to submit a farm-related injury claim compared to individuals in other age groups. Based on the report from the HSA covering periods from 2014 to 2023, this age group also accounted for most non-fatal incidents in workplaces compared to other age groups.

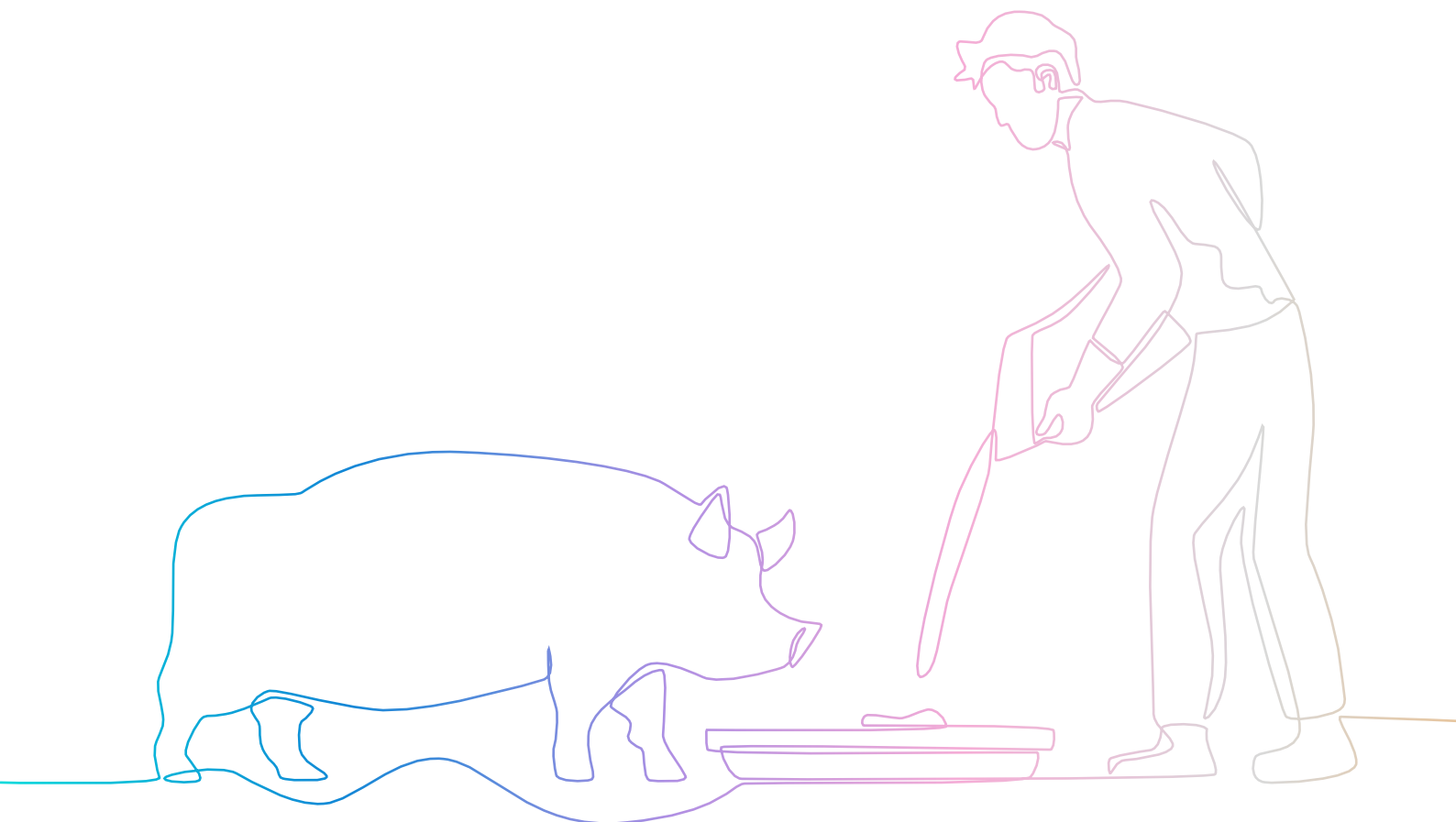
This analysis also underscores the elevated risks faced by farmers, particularly in interactions with livestock. The report shows that animal-related incidents were the most frequent cause of farm-related accidents, accounting for 19% of all claims, followed by contact with sharp, projected, or falling objects (17%), and falls from one level to another (15%). These incidents are also identified among the top eight causes of fatalities in agriculture, as reported by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in 2021.

The nature of injuries sustained during farm-related incidents was also assessed in this report and the most frequently reported injuries were injuries to the back (13%) and injuries to either hand, finger, or thumb (12%). These findings are consistent with reports from the Irish farmer's Journal in 2022, which highlighted that musculoskeletal injuries and hand or upper limb injuries are the most prevalent injuries among farmers.

Notably, psychological injuries encompassing PTSD, anxiety, and depression accounted for 8% of all claims submitted between 2019 and 2024. This figure underscores the significant mental health burden associated with farm accidents and the demanding nature of the profession itself, a concern that has gained increasing recognition in recent years. For instance, a 2023 study conducted in Irish farming communities by Dublin College University in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and Teagasc, identified burnout (24%) and sleep issues (50%) were major causes of mental health challenges among Irish farmers. Similarly, research from other neighbouring jurisdictions, such as the UK, also points to the considerable psychological impact of farm incidents and the broader stresses of agricultural life. In a 2024 survey conducted by Farm Safety Foundation in the UK, nine out of ten farmers identified mental health as the most significant issue currently facing the agricultural sector.

Geographically, claims were predominantly submitted from Cork and Tipperary, counties recognised for their high concentration of farms according to the Central Statistics Office's 2023 Farm Structure Survey. These counties also registered the highest total compensation, with over €1.1 million awarded to claimants in Tipperary and €656,000 in Cork, reflecting the volume of assessment of compensations from these key agricultural regions. Additionally, in 2024, the median value of compensation awarded was €34,802, while the average value of compensation awarded was €46,070. This is significantly higher than the overall median and average value of compensation awarded to injured workers in 2024, irrespective of location, at €16,255 and €25,544, respectively. This is driven by the greater severity of injuries sustained in farm accidents, with almost 1 in 4 of all farm accidents resulting in severe injuries, compared to 1 in 10 of all workplace accidents. The findings highlight the disproportionate impact of farm accidents on injured workers and visitors in comparison to other workplace settings.

This report presents an analysis of over 700 personal injury claims and 167 assessments of compensation made by the Injuries Resolution Board between 2019 and 2024, relating to injuries sustained on farms. It identifies the demographic groups most at risk of injury, as well as the most common causes of farm accidents. The findings are intended to inform the development of targeted farm safety policies that not only reduce the frequency and severity of accidents but also protect the wellbeing of those who live and work in Ireland's agricultural communities.



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