

Lost-Time Claim Rate

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The workplace injury rate in Alberta is called the lost-time claim rate. Every time workers miss work beyond the day of their injury, a lost-time claim is generated by the Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB).

In recent years, improvements were made to the analysis of Alberta WCB claim information allowing for modified work claims to be analyzed alongside lost-time claims. Using modified work claim data in addition to lost-time claim data ensures a more comprehensive picture of workplace injuries, and allows for greater insight into incident prevention.

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both the lost-time and modified work concepts to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.

Person-years worked are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta

Employment and Immigration uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years worked for each employer and each industry.

One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC} \times 100}{\text{Person-years worked}}$$

The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-year estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the lost-time claim rate although it covers a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work).

The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

$$\text{DI Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI} \times 100}{\text{Person-years worked}}$$

In 2007, the lost-time claim rate in Alberta was 2.12 per 100 person-years worked. This shows a decrease by 9.7% from the rate in 2006. The rate in 2006 was 2.35 per 100 person years worked. The 2007 rate was the lowest since 1991. The disabling injury rate, which includes modified work claims, decreased by 6.3% in 2007 to 3.88 per 100 person-years worked, from 4.14 in 2006.

For more information about the data presented in this report:

Visit Employment and Immigration website:

<http://employment.alberta.ca>

Visit Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org

Call Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre: toll free 1- 866 – 415 – 8690.