

Human Services Employer Data Publication

Alberta Employer Performance Data

Alberta Human Services has updated annual performance information about Alberta employers. The report will include data from 2006 to 2010.

What the report includes

This report includes occupational fatality numbers, the lost-time claim numbers, and lost-time claim rates for employers in Alberta who are required to have a WCB-Alberta account.

A lost-time claim rate can serve as an indicator of a company's safety performance but it is not a conclusive measure by itself.

WCB-Alberta provides the Ministry of Human Services with data collected as part of its administration of the Workers' Compensation Act. For the purposes of the new employer performance reports, WCB-Alberta provides the following data as of March 31 for each year:

- Industry codes
- Number of claims accepted
- Number of fatality claims by type of fatality (e.g. occupational disease, motor-vehicle accident or traumatic injury)
- Estimated person years

This is point-in-time information. If changes are made to claims status, industry codes, or person years after March 31, the data in WCB-Alberta's records may differ from the published reports.

The workers' compensation system is a no-fault mutual insurance system, so the data collected does not attribute fault.

Interpreting the data

Lost-time claims

The number of lost-time claims shown on the current report have been accepted by WCB-Alberta as of March 31, 2011. Claims can be registered by an employer, an injured worker, or a health care provider within two years of the incident, so these numbers may change slightly over time. WCB-Alberta regularly audits employers to ensure they are reporting claims properly.

Lost-time claims are cases where a worker was injured seriously enough to miss time from work. WCB-Alberta managed approximately 25,500 lost-time claims in 2010.

Person years

Insurable earnings figures can change if employers modify the figures they have reported to WCB-Alberta, or if WCB-Alberta conducts an audit. Industry codes may also change as a result of employers changing their operations.

Fatality claims

The number of fatalities shown on the report have been accepted by WCB-Alberta as of March 31 of each year. The fatalities are shown in the year they were accepted, not by the year that they occurred.

With the publication of fatality claim data, it is important to understand a few key elements about work place fatalities:

- Fatality is a work place incident that results in a worker's death.
- A delayed fatality is a situation where a work place incident leads to a worker's death months or years after the original incident. For example:
 - a. An incident resulting in severe injury to the worker requiring extensive treatment. Years later, a related surgery results in the worker's death from surgical complications. The fatality is investigated and accepted. The fatality date is the date of acceptance.
 - b. An incident results in a severe injury resulting in paraplegia. Gradual onset of medical conditions related to the paraplegia ultimately result in the worker's death many years after the initial injury. Again the fatality date is the date of acceptance.
- In many of those cases, a worker may not be connected to his or her original workplace and may have lost touch with his employer. This means there may cases where a fatality has been assigned to an employer, although the employer may be unaware.
- The date of a fatality is the date WCB-Alberta has confirmed the death is work related and accepts the claim. This is different from the date of death (DOD) or the date of accident (DOA)
- Occupational disease fatalities may be assigned to an employer or, in most cases, to an industry. Assignment of the case from employer to industry reflects the long-term exposure required for the development of the occupational disease. Exposure often involves more than one workplace in a worker's lifetime.

In 2010, WCB- Alberta accepted 136 work-related fatalities.

Where to find more information

For questions about the five-year employer lost-time claims and fatality reports, employers should contact OH&S at 1-866-415-8690. OH &S can supply details about this information, including claims, what the insurable earnings figures are and how the person years were determined.

WCB-Alberta will help explain the published data by answering questions about industry codes, lost-time claims, insurable earnings, and fatality numbers.

An employer can get up-to-date performance information from WCB-Alberta by accessing the Loss Control Reporting (LCR) online service through WCB-Alberta's website.

Definitions

Lost-Time Claim (LTC)	<p>A claim that was accepted for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to require time away from work beyond the day of the injury.</p> <p>This includes claims that receive reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent disability</p>
Lost-Time Claim Rate	<p>Looking at the five year trend of the lost time claims rate can give an indication of that employers' performance.</p> <p>Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between employers or to the industry or provincial average can be used to indicate changes.</p>
Person-Years Estimate	<p>This is derived by taking the employer's insurable earnings (payroll) as reported to WCB-Alberta and dividing by the industry average wage.</p> <p>The actual person-years of a company may differ from those that are calculated due to differences in actual wages paid compared to industry averages and the maximum insurable earnings reported to WCB-Alberta.</p>
Fatality	<p>Fatalities are counted in this report based on the year that the fatality claim was accepted by WCB-Alberta.</p> <p>An occupational fatality is the death of a worker resulting from an incident or exposure which has been accepted by WCB-Alberta for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year arise from incidents or exposures occurring in prior years.</p>