

## *Lost-Time Claim Rate*

The workplace injury rate in Alberta is called the lost-time claim rate. Every time a worker misses work beyond the day of their injury, a lost-time claim is generated by the Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta.

**A lost-time claim (LTC)** is a claim for an occupational injury or disease, which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. Included are claims for which wages compensation are paid, permanent disability claims, fatalities and cases in which the injured worker is assigned light duties or other modified work upon return to work from time lost due to injury.

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

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs} \times 100}{\text{Estimated person-years}}$$

**Person-year estimates** are calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB.

Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses these 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 2004 Alberta lost-time claim rate of 2.6 serious injuries per 100 full time jobs was the lowest since the current system of measurement in Alberta was established in 1991.

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