



## **2014 Occupational Health and Safety Statistics – initial analysis**

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The following is an initial analysis of the 2014 Occupational Health and Safety data from the Workers' Compensation Board–Alberta (WCB–Alberta). The complete 2014 report offering further analysis and interpretation will be released later this year.

- The provincial **lost-time claim rate** for 2014 was 1.31 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 2.9 per cent from 2013 (attached, Table 1).
- The provincial **disabling injury rate** for 2014 was 2.63 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 1.4 per cent from 2013 (attached, Table 1).
- The number of **lost-time claims** decreased by 0.2 per cent in 2014, from 27,619 to 27,577 claims. The number of **modified-work claims** increased by 2.1 per cent in 2014, from 43,428 to 44,359. The combined measure of **disabling injury claims** increased by 1.4 per cent in 2014, from 54,500 to 55,245 (attached, Table 1).
- Estimated **person-years** figures for Alberta increased by 2.9 per cent in 2014 (attached, Table 1).
- The number of **fatality claims** decreased by 10.1 percent in 2014, from 188 to 169 (attached, Table 2).
- The provincial **fatality rate** decreased by 12.6 per cent to 80 fatalities per million person-years in 2014 (attached, Table 2).
- **Occupational disease** continued to be the leading cause of worker death in 2014, accounting for 47.9 per cent of all occupational fatality claims, followed by workplace incidents (attached, Table 3).

## Attachment: 2014<sup>1</sup> Occupational Health and Safety Statistics<sup>2</sup>

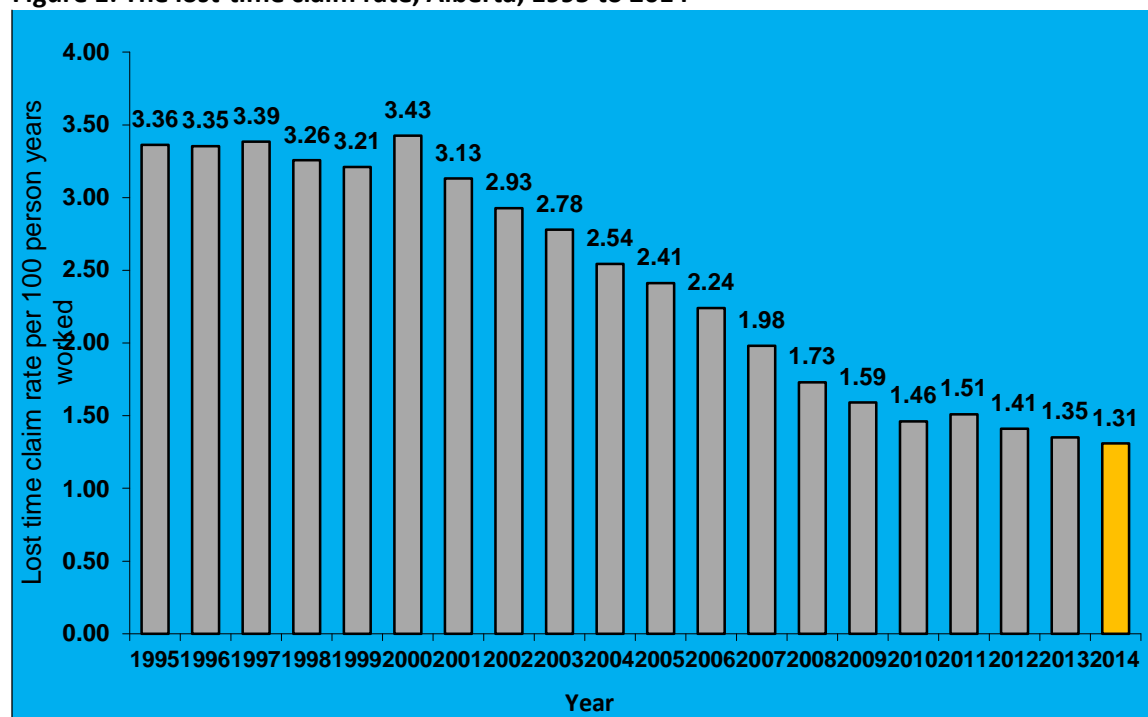
**Table 1: Injury claims and claim rates, Alberta 2012 to 2014**

	2012	2013	2014	Change 2012 to 2013*	Change 2013 to 2014*
Person-Years	1,951,724	2,044,739	2,103,029	4.8%	2.9%
Lost-Time Claims	27,545	27,619	27,577	0.3%	-0.2%
<b>Lost-Time Claim Rate</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.35</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>-0.04</b>
Modified-Work Claims	41,725	43,428	44,359	4.1%	2.1%
Disabling Injury Claims	53,126	54,500	55,245	2.6%	1.4%
<b>Disabling Injury Claim Rate</b>	<b>2.72</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>-0.06</b>	<b>-0.04</b>

Source: WCB – Alberta data, prepared by Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development, Job, Skills, Training and Labour

\*Change was calculated by using the true values of the rates (not the rates presented in the table which were already rounded), and then rounded up to two decimal places.

**Figure 1: The lost-time claim rate, Alberta, 1995 to 2014**



Source: WCB-Alberta data, prepared by Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development, Job, Skills, Training and Labour

<sup>1</sup> Information presented in this report is based on the year the workplace incidents occurred and were reported by Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) as of March 31, 2015. WCB declined claims are excluded from these calculations.

<sup>2</sup> Workplace injury claims and claim rates provided in this report may be different from information presented in WCB – Alberta Annual Reports. The differences are due to different reporting requirements. Throughout this report, numbers may not add up due to rounding.

**Table 2: Occupational fatalities and fatality rate, Alberta 2010 to 2014**

	Total Fatalities*	Fatality Rate Per Million Person-Years
2010	136	79
2011	123	68
2012	145	74
2013	188	92
2014	169	80
<b>5-year total</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>79</b>

Source: WCB – Alberta data, Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development, Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

\*The total number of fatalities is updated for accuracy/correctness until March 31, 2015.

**Table 3: Occupational fatalities accepted by WCB, by type, Alberta 2010 to 2014**

Year	Motor Vehicle Incidents		Motor Vehicle Latent Incidents*		Workplace Incidents		Workplace Latent Incidents*		Occupational Disease		Total
	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2010	29	21.3	2	1.5	34	25.0	9	6.6	62	45.6	136
2011	25	20.3	3	2.4	38	30.9	5	4.1	52	42.3	123
2012	35	24.1	1	0.7	42	29.0	9	6.2	58	40.0	145
2013	33	17.6	4	2.1	41	21.8	11	5.9	99	52.7	188
2014	27	16.0	2	1.2	47	27.8	12	7.1	81	47.9	169
<b>5-year total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>761</b>

Source: WCB – Alberta data, prepared by Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development, Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour

\*A latent fatality consists of a worker who was involved in a workplace incident or exposure, or a motor vehicle incident that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later.

## Appendix: Terms and definitions

A **lost-time claim** is a claim for an occupational injury or disease, which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. All claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages are included, as are payments for permanent loss of function.

A **modified-work claim** is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where a worker had their normal work duties altered enabling them to remain in the workplace without losing time. Also included are claims where injured workers were helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.

**Disabling injury 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.

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

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 LTC 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 and includes claim made for both lost-time and modified-work.

An **occupational fatality** is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted. A **latent fatality** consists of a worker who was involved in a workplace incident or exposure, or a motor vehicle incident that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. Usually, other contributing factors also cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure.

The **fatality rate** is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years. For the purpose of this report, fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are included in the calculation of the fatality rate.