

AL.1.1648
C.2

OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES
AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**



Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury
Claims and Claim Rates

**Forestry and
Related Industries**

2003 to 2007

Summer 2008





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	2
2. Provincial Summary.....	5
Part 1: Forestry Industries	8
3. Highlights	9
4. Industry Sector Summary	11
5. Industry Sector Analysis.....	15
6. Demographics of Injured Workers.....	20
7. Injury and Disease Analysis	22
8. Occupational Fatalities	31
9. Certificate of Recognition	33
Part 2: Forest Products Manufacturing Industries.....	35
10. Highlights	36
11. Industry Sector Summary	38
12. Industry Sector Analysis.....	41
13. Demographics of Injured Workers.....	48
14. Injury and Disease Analysis	50
15. Occupational Fatalities	59
16. Certificate of Recognition	61
References	63
Appendix A: Terms, Definitions, and Formulas.....	64
Appendix B: Forestry and Related Industries WCB Codes	68
Contact Information.....	69

INTRODUCTION

Role of the Ministry of Employment and Immigration

The Ministry of Employment and Immigration includes the reporting entity of the Department of Employment and Immigration (E&I). E&I develops and delivers policies, programs and services to foster labour force development; ensure fair, safe and healthy workplaces; and help those in need. The Department also provides leadership for immigration and interprovincial labour mobility policy for the Government of Alberta, and coordinates resources to support the settlement and integration of new Albertans.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta - Forestry and Related Industries 2003 to 2007

E&I prepares this annual report to provide analysis of workplace health and safety to meet the demand from industry and safety associations, labour organizations, employers and workers for incorporating this information into their strategic plans for enhancing workplace health and safety. This includes:

- descriptions of programs and initiatives undertaken in pursuit of its workplace health and safety mission and goals;
- analysis of provincial occupational injury and disease information against a national picture;
- estimations of the risk of injury or disease at the provincial, industry sector and sub-sector level as well as general descriptions about the incidents and injured workers; and
- analysis of workplace injury and disease literature in Alberta.

The *Occupational Injury and Diseases in Alberta* publications present analysis of aggregate injury claim data to allow for the tracking of workplace health and safety performance over time. This is important for evaluating past and present performance, and in providing strategic information for the direction of workplace health and safety policy. The analysis contained in this report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injuries in the province, allowing for a prevention focus to be made based on injury probabilities, rather than possibilities.

Sustainable Economic Growth

E&I promotes safe, healthy and productive workplaces, as well as fair, equitable and stable labour relations to ensure a fair, safe and healthy work environment for Alberta's workers. Work is central to people's lives, and to the stability of families and societies. People want work that provides them with an acceptable standard of living. It is important that workers enter an environment where their health and safety are protected,

where they are treated with respect and they are compensated fairly for the job they are doing. This results in an attractive workplace that furthers the position of Alberta employers to be competitive in the global economy (see Note 1.1). Alongside the human cost of occupational injuries and diseases and the impact on families and society, the economic costs are numerous.

In 2008, direct compensation payments for occupational injury and disease by WCB were projected to total \$755 million.¹ These costs are ultimately paid by employers through premium payments, and impact the costs of running a business as well as the final cost of delivering products and services. Further costs associated with occupational injuries and diseases include the material damage to equipment and premises, the additional cost of hiring staff to cover for injured workers, and the lost productivity resulting from the absence. Additional impacts of poor health and safety for employers include higher absenteeism and lower morale of employees, loss of skilled and experienced employees, loss of the company's investment in training, and difficulty recruiting high-quality employees due to the loss of image (particularly in the case of sub-contractors to larger companies) all leading to losses in productivity and underutilization of production (see Note 1.2).

Other costs borne by the economy and society due in part to work-related injuries and diseases include early retirements, unemployment and poorer households. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in high-income countries, around 40% of all retirements (before statutory age) are caused by disability. This is equivalent to around 14% of the lifetime working capacity of the employed labour force.² Occupational injuries and diseases also affect unemployment and household income levels. Workers with an impairment of capacity can reduce their re-employability and impact household income. Workplace injuries and diseases typically reduce the overall earnings of households and in certain cases, family members have to give up jobs in order to care for an injured worker.

Sustainable economic growth creates the prosperity needed to sustain quality of life and ensures a higher standard of living. Sustainable economic performance can be achieved if growth pressures are properly addressed. The economy can also only be sustained if Alberta has the right people with the right skills at the right time to do the work.

Note 1.1

Research by the International Institute for Management Development and the World Economic Forum suggests that the safest-working countries also have the best competitiveness ratings (International Labour Organization, *Safety in Numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work, 2003*).

Note 1.2

The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 4% of Gross Domestic Product is lost due to occupational injuries and diseases (ILO, *Safety in Numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work, 2003*).

¹ See the Workers Compensation Board Alberta 2008 Premium Rate Manual http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/08rate_manual.pdf

² See the International Labour Organization report: Safety in numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/worldday/report_eng.pdf

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2007 data beside 2006 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2007 and accepted as lost-time or modified work claims by WCB as of March 31, 2008.
- About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years worked are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years worked. Duration rates are also volatile when based on a small number of lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
- Estimates of year-over-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not total 100, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years worked and the duration rate is the number of days lost per 100 person-years worked. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years worked.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information see http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/08rate_manual.pdf.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the National Occupation Classification (NOC). The NOC provides a standard list of occupations across the country. For more information see <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC-CNP/app/index.aspx?lc=e>.
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For information see <http://www.csa-intl.org/onlinestore/GetCatalogDrillDown.asp>.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

PROVINCIAL SUMMARY

The positive trend continues: there were fewer injuries reported and more person-years worked in 2007.

In recent years, improvements were made to the analysis of Workers' Compensation Board – 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 is a claim submitted to the WCB for an occupational injury or disease that causes a 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 (for example, hearing loss).

A modified work claim is submitted for an occupational injury or disease where workers have their normal work duties altered enabling them to remain working without losing time from work. Included in the figures are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease, and cases where workers were provided modified duties prior to time lost because of an injury or disease.

Modifying an injured worker's duties can be beneficial for both an employer and an employee. For the employer, the financial cost of an absent worker can be high and returning an injured employee to work as soon as it is medically possible is important for properly managing compensation, disability claims and productivity levels. For the employee, returning to work as soon as medically possible is beneficial both physically and psychologically, and is linked to quicker recovery rates and higher self-esteem. Long absences from the workplace are also linked to decreases in labour market attachment.

The number of disabling injury claims reflects both the lost-time and modified work concepts and produces an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables a worker causing either time lost from work or for normal work duties to be modified.

In 2007, a total of 34,227 lost-time claims were accepted by WCB. This is a decrease of 6.7% from 2006. In contrast, the person-years worked estimates increased by 3.3% to 1,611,892 between 2006 and 2007 (see Table 2.1). Expressed as a lost-time claim rate, the data translates into a rate of 2.12 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 9.7% from 2006, as proportionately there were fewer lost-time injury claims. The 2007 rate is

Note 2.1

- The **lost-time claim rate** represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker requiring time away from work, during a period of one year of work.
- The **disabling injury rate** represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury.

the lowest in the past seventeen years, and since 1991 the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 48.7%. Since 2003, the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 23.7%.

Table 2.1
Provincial Figures - Alberta: 2006 and 2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	1,560,078	1,611,892	3.3%
Lost-time claims	36,701	34,227	-6.7%
Lost-time claim rate	2.35	2.12	-9.7%
Modified-work claims	41,390	42,491	2.7%
Lost-time claims involving modified-work	13,566	14,245	5.0%
Disabling injury claims	64,525	62,473	-3.2%
Disabling injury rate	4.14	3.88	-6.3%
Duration rate	54	48	-12.0%
Days lost (LTC)	844,508	767,671	-9.1%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$202,598,539	\$219,296,722	8.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The total number of modified work claims submitted in 2007 was 42,491, an increase of 2.7%. There were 14,245 claims involving both lost-time and modified work, producing 62,473 disabling injury claims, a decrease of 3.2% from 2006. The number of lost-time claims involving modified work increased by 5.0% from 2006, indicative of improving claims management. Expressed as a rate, the 2007 disabling injury rate was 3.88 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 6.3% from the 2006 rate of 4.14.

Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. The severity of the injuries and diseases decreased in 2007, as reflected by a lower duration rate and a decrease in average days lost. The effort of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers back into the workforce also has a positive impact on work days lost. The duration rate of 48 days lost per 100 person-years worked was 12.0% lower than in 2006. The median number of work days lost in 2007 was seven, the same as 2006, and the average days lost decreased to 22, from 23 in 2006.

Table 2.2 displays the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for the province, and also for the major industry sectors in Alberta. The data provides a useful setting for analyzing the health and safety performance of the Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing industries. The Forestry industries include two specific industries that are part of the Agriculture and Forestry major industry sector. These are the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) industry and the Timber Management industry.

In 2007, the lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries of 3.27 per 100 person-years worked was higher than all the major industry sectors. The disabling injury rate for the Forestry industries of 4.16 per 100 person-years worked was higher than five major

industry sectors but lower than the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging sector and the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector.

**Table 2.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Major Industry Sector - Alberta: 2006 and 2007**

Major Industry Sector	2006		2007	
	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Alberta	2.35	4.14	2.12	3.88
Agriculture and Forestry	3.24	4.10	2.99	3.75
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1.54	2.05	1.30	1.86
Construction and Construction Trade Services	2.50	5.22	2.32	5.05
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	3.11	7.01	2.75	6.50
Mining and Petroleum Development	0.87	3.64	0.76	3.02
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	2.66	3.41	2.44	3.14
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	3.17	4.81	2.94	4.70
Wholesale and Retail	2.43	3.67	2.17	3.55
Forestry Industries	3.13	4.13	3.27	4.16
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	1.93	4.19	1.82	4.28

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The Forest Products Manufacturing industries include five industries that form parts of the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging major industry sector, but have forest related activities. These are the Sawmills and Planing Mills industry, the Treating of Timber industry, the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills industry and the Pulp Mills industry.

In 2007, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a lost-time claim rate of 1.82 per 100 person-years worked. The rate was lower than most industry sectors although higher than the lost-time claim rates for the Business, Personal and Professional Services sector and the Mining and Petroleum Development sector. The disabling injury rate of 4.28 per 100 person-years worked was higher than five of the major industry sectors but lower than the disabling injury rate for the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging sector and the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector.

PART 1

FORESTRY INDUSTRIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Higher lost-time and disabling injury rates in 2007.

- In 2007, the Forestry industries lost-time claim rate increased by 4.5% to 3.27 per 100 person-years worked, from 3.13 in 2006. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 2.12 per 100 person-years worked.
- In 2007, the Forestry industries had a duration rate of 198, a 36.9% increase from the 2006 rate of 144. This duration rate is over four times higher than the provincial rate of 48 days lost per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate increased by 0.6%, from 4.13 per 100 person-years worked in 2006 to 4.16 in 2007. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 3.88 per 100 person-years worked.
- The increases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in 2007 were the result of an increase in the number of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims increased by 8.2% and disabling injury claims by 4.1%. The person-years worked estimates increased by 3.5%.

Smaller employers experienced the highest injury rates.

- Employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate in 2007 at 4.70 per 100 person-years worked. This was followed by employers with less than 10 person-years worked at 3.51. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.86 per 100 person-years worked.
- For disabling injury rates, employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest rate at 5.19, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked.
- Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the largest difference between the lost-time claim rate and the disabling injury rate.

Mixed results by industry.

- Lost-time claim and disabling injury rates decreased in the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) industry in 2007.
- The Timber Management industry displayed increases in lost-time and disabling injury rates.
- The Forestry industries accounted for 0.3% of the person-years worked in the province, 0.5% of the lost-time claims, and 0.2% of modified work claims and when combined, 0.3% of the disabling injury claims.

In 2007, sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 35.1% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Forestry industries. Lost-time claims connected with fractures and dislocations however, had a relative proportion 3.7 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher relative likelihood of this type of injury occurring.
- The trunk was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 22.7% of all disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims connected with the legs displayed a relative proportion that was 2.4 times the average for all sectors.
- The primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were persons, plants, animals and minerals accounting for 27.7% of the disabling injury claims, followed by vehicles, 21.3%. Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, vehicles displayed a relative proportion for lost-time claims that was 4.7 times higher than the average for all sectors.
- In 2007, the most common type of event or exposure was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 30.8% of lost-time claims and 30.2% of disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims caused by transportation accidents however had a relative proportion that was 6.5 times the average for all sectors.
- The median work days lost was 26, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 60 days lost compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2007 lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries was 3.27, while the disabling injury rate was 4.16 per 100 person-years worked.

In 2007, there were 159 lost-time claims and 198 disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries, representing less than one percent of the total lost-time and disabling injury claims in the province. The Forestry industries' lost-time claim rate increased by 4.5% to 3.27 per 100 person-years worked. The disabling injury rate increased by 0.6% to 4.16 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 4.1).

The rise in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were the result of increases in the number of injury claims. Lost-time claims increased by 8.2% and disabling injury claims by 4.1%. Person-years worked estimates increased by 3.5% in 2007. The 2007 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.12 and the disabling injury rate was 3.88 per 100 person-years.

**Table 4.1
Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2006-2007**

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	4,692	4,856	3.5%
Lost-time claims	147	159	8.2%
Lost-time claim rate	3.13	3.27	4.5%
Modified-work claims	74	68	-8.1%
Lost-time claims involving modified-work	27	25	-7.4%
Disabling injury claims	194	202	4.1%
Disabling injury rate	4.13	4.16	0.6%
Duration rate	144	198	36.9%
Days lost (LTC)	6,776	9,600	41.7%
Compensation payments	\$1,810,045	\$1,985,468	9.7%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

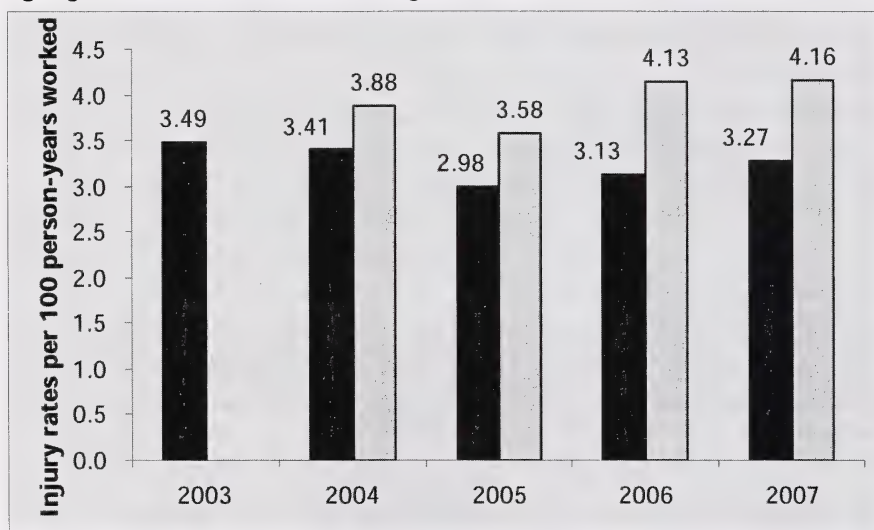
Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. The severity of injuries and diseases increased in 2007, as reflected by a higher duration rate and an increase in median and average days lost. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers back into the workforce also impacts work days lost. In 2007, the Forestry industries had a duration rate of 198 days lost per 100 person-years worked, a 36.9% increase from the 2006 rate of 144. The median work days lost was 26, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 60 compared to the

average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim. Therefore, claims in the Forestry industries have relatively high severity compared to claims filed in other sectors.

Chart 4.1 shows historical lost-time and injury rates for the Forestry industries. The lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries has decreased by 19.8% since 2003. This rate is smaller than the average decrease seen for all sectors of the province, 23.7%. Since 2004, the disabling injury rate increased by 6.5%. For all sectors in the province, the disabling injury rate decreased by 3.0% since 2004.

Chart 4.1

Injury Rates for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2003 - 2007³



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Size of Employer

In the Forestry industries, employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate in 2007 at 4.70 per 100 person-years worked. This was followed by employers with less than 10 person-years worked at 3.51. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.86 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 4.2).

For disabling injury rates, employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest rate at 5.19, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the largest difference between the lost-time claim rate and the disabling injury rate.

³ Disabling Injury Rates are available from 2004 onwards. The rate in 2004 was produced using a 27 month period to capture information on submitted claims in the 2004 calendar year. From 2005, a consistent 15 month period has been used to capture claims for particular years, in line with the methodology for the production of Lost-Time Claim Rates.

For all sectors of the province, employers with 40 to 99 person-years and employers with 20 to 39 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rates at 2.43 and 2.33 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest disabling injury rate at 4.34 per 100 person-years.

Table 4.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate by Size⁴ of Employer — Alberta: 2007

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	person-years worked Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	2,207	2,221	78	88	3.51	3.96
10 to 19 person-years worked	56	809	38	42	4.70	5.19
20 to 39 person-years worked	36	972	32	41	3.29	4.22
40 to 99 person-years worked	11	621	8	27	1.29	4.35
100 or more person-years worked	2	232	2	3	0.86	1.29
Unspecified*	1	0	0	1	N/A	N/A

* These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years worked equal to zero.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of Injury Claims

Table 4.3 presents figures for the proportion of employers in the Forestry industries with no lost-time and the proportion of employers with no disabling injury claims. Table 4.4 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2007, 95% of employers had no lost-time claims and 95% of employers had no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the province are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of less than 5% of employers (see Table 4.3). For all sectors in the province, 93% of employers submitted no lost-time claims and 91% no disabling injury claims. These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2007, the number of employers with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to 71% and 66% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries respectively (see Table 5.6).

Employers who submitted one to five lost-time claims and employers who submitted one to five disabling injury claims accounted for around 27% and 31% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries respectively. Employers who submitted six or more lost-time claims and employers who submitted six or more disabling injury claims accounted for 1% and 3% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries.

⁴ Size is measured in terms of person-years worked. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year.

Table 4.3
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims - Forestry Industries: 2007

Proportion of Employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	95%	95%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers with submitted claims, 83% submitted one lost-time claim, 14% two to five claims and 3% over six lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, similar proportions exist although reflect the prevalence of a wider range of injuries (see Table 4.4).

Table 4.4
Proportion of Employers with Claims - Forestry Industries: 2007

1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
83%	14%	3%	0%
1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
76%	20%	3%	0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS

The Timber Management industry had the highest injury rates of the Forestry industries.

Between 2003 and 2007, the Timber Management industry had the highest lost-time claim rate of the two Forestry industries. Lost-time claim rates in both industries were higher in Logging and Woodland Operations industry and the Timber Management industry than the provincial average each year (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2003 - 2007

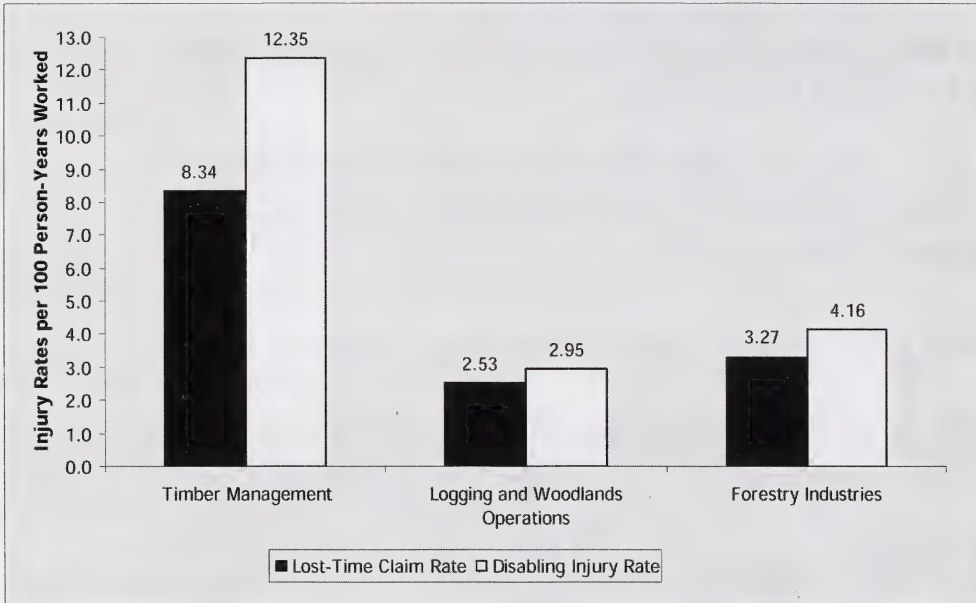
Sub-Sector	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Forestry	3.91	3.41	2.98	3.13	3.27
Logging and Woodlands Operations	3.11	2.95	2.54	2.76	2.53
Timber Management	9.92	6.21	7.04	6.01	8.34

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2007, the Timber Management industry had the highest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in the Forestry industries at 8.34 and 12.35 per 100 person-years worked (see Chart 5.1). The Logging and Woodlands Operations industry is the larger of the two industries and accounted for 67.3% of the lost-time claims, 61.9% of disabling injury claims and 87.2% of person-years worked in the Forestry industries.

Chart 5.1

Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Claim Rate for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2007



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs)

The 2007 lost-time claim rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations industry was 2.53 per 100 person-years worked, an 8.5% decrease from 2006. The number of lost-time claims decreased by 7.0% and the person-years worked increased by 1.7%. The disabling injury rate decreased by 6.2% in 2007, to 2.95 per 100 person-years worked. Disabling injury claims decreased by 4.6%.

The duration rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations industry increased in 2007 to 193 days lost per 100 person-years worked, more than four times the average rate for all sectors of the province, 48 (see Table 5.2).

Since 2003, the lost-time claim rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations industry decreased by 11.1% compared to the average for all Forestry industries, 19.8%, and the average for all sectors in the province 23.7%.

Table 5.2
Logging and Woodlands Operations, including Trucking of Logs —
Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	4,160	4,232	1.7%
Lost-time claims	115	107	-7.0%
Lost-time claim rate	2.76	2.53	-8.5%
Modified-work claims	40	33	-17.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	24	15	-37.5%
Disabling injury claims	131	125	-4.6%
Disabling injury rate	3.15	2.95	-6.2%
Duration rate	135	193	43.2%
Days lost (LTC)	5,615	8,182	45.7%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$1,686,365	\$1,760,144	4.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Timber Management

In 2007, the Timber Management industry had a lost-time claim rate of 8.34 per 100 person-years worked, an increase of 38.7% from 2006. This was the result of a 62.5% increase in the number of lost-time claims. Person-years worked estimates increased by 17.2%. The disabling injury rate increased by 4.3% in 2007, to 12.35 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 5.3). The duration rate in the Timber Management industry increased by 4.2% to 227 days-lost per 100 person-years worked.

Since 2003, the lost-time claim rate for the Timber Management industry decreased by 11.1% compared to the average for all Forestry industries, 19.8%, and the average for all sectors in the province 23.7%.

Table 5.3
Timber Management — Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	532	624	17.2%
Lost-time claims	32	52	62.5%
Lost-time claim rate	6.01	8.34	38.7%
Modified-work claims	34	35	2.9%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	3	10	233.3%
Disabling injury claims	63	77	22.2%
Disabling injury rate	11.84	12.35	4.3%
Duration rate	218	227	4.2%
Days lost (LTC)	1,161	1,418	22.1%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$123,680	\$225,324	82.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 5.4 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time and employers without disabling injury claims in 2007, by industry. Table 5.5 displays the respective person-years for those employers in 2007. Table 5.6 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

The Logging and Woodland Operations industry displayed a higher proportion of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims, indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in that industry. This figure however, is influenced by employer size. In 2007, the number of employers with no lost-time claims translates to 75% of the total person-years worked in this industry (see Table 5.5).

Table 5.4
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forestry industry - Alberta: 2006

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	95%	95%
Timber Management	87%	84%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	96%	95%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 5.5
Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forestry industry - Alberta: 2007

Proportion of person-years accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	71%	66%
Timber Management	43%	37%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	75%	70%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers who did submit claims, the Logging and Woodlands Operations industry also had a higher proportion of employers submitting one lost-time claim and a lower proportion of employers submitting over six lost-time claims (see Table 5.6).

Table 5.6
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury
Claims, by Forestry industry - Alberta: 2007

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Timber Management	47%	37%	16%	0%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	91%	9%	0%	0%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Timber Management	46%	38%	17%	0%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	83%	17%	0%	0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2007, two occupation groups, Transportation equipment operators and related workers (excluding labourers) and Primary production labourers, accounted for over half of lost-time claims and disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Occupations unique to forestry operations, mining and gas extraction, and fishing (excluding labourers) accounted for 10.7% and 9.9% of the lost-time claims and disabling injury claims in 2007 (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Occupation - Alberta:
2007

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excl. Labourers	37.1%	31.7%	N/A*
Primary Production Labourers	20.8%	24.8%	N/A*
Occupations Unique to Forestry Operations, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, and Fishing, excluding labourers	10.7%	9.9%	32.4%
Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Including Drillers	8.2%	7.9%	N/A*
Professional Occupations in Natural and Applied Sciences	3.1%	3.0%	N/A*
Technical Occupations Related to Natural and Applied Sciences	2.5%	3.5%	21.0%
All Other Occupations	17.6%	19.3%	28.5%

* Employment figures have been suppressed due to low sample size.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2007, workers aged 25 to 34 accounted for 32.1% of lost-time claims and 32.2% of disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 13.2% of lost-time claims and 18.3% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.2).

Table 6.2
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Age — Alberta: 2006-2007

Age	2006				2007			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	2	1.4%	10	5.2%	5	3.1%	8	4.0%
20-24 Years	12	8.2%	29	14.9%	16	10.1%	29	14.4%
25-34 Years	32	21.8%	43	22.2%	51	32.1%	65	32.2%
35-44 Years	48	32.7%	55	28.4%	44	27.7%	51	25.2%
45-54 Years	30	20.4%	33	17.0%	26	16.4%	28	13.9%
55-64 Years	19	12.9%	20	10.3%	15	9.4%	18	8.9%
65+ Years	4	2.7%	4	2.1%	2	1.3%	3	1.5%
Total	147	100.0%	194	100.0%	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forestry industries, the majority of claims were from men. In 2007, 92.3% of lost-time claims and 88.4% of disabling injury claims involved men, although men do comprise the majority of those employed⁵ with this industry, 78.0%. Lost-time claims and disabling injury claims from women accounted for 7.7% and 11.6% of the total claims respectively (see Table 6.3).

Table 6.3
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2006-2007

Gender	2006				2007			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	6	4.1%	17	8.9%	12	7.7%	23	11.6%
Men	139	95.9%	175	91.1%	144	92.3%	175	88.4%
Unspecified	2	N/A	2	N/A	3	N/A	4	N/A
Total	147	100.0%	194	100.0%	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

⁵ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) information for the Forestry and logging with support activities industry.

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Struck by objects and bodily reaction were the most common causes for lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2006, 91.2% of lost-time claims and 89.6% of disabling injury claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The two most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears and fractures and dislocations (see Table 7.1).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest relative proportion⁶ for lost-time claims for fractures and dislocations, at 3.7 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for systemic diseases and disorders and for other traumatic injuries and diseases had relative proportions 2.5 and 2.2 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these nature of injury categories had relative proportions that were 2.6, 2.1 and 1.3 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

Note 7.1

Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Note 7.2

The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

⁶ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2007

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	145	91.2%	181	89.6%
Sprains, Strains and Tears	55	34.6%	71	35.1%
Fractures and Dislocations	35	22.0%	37	18.3%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	16	10.1%	24	11.9%
Open Wounds	9	5.7%	16	7.9%
Burns	2	1.3%	3	1.5%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	28	17.6%	30	14.9%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	12	7.5%	16	7.9%
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nature of Injury - Unknown	1	0.6%	4	2.0%
Total	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2007, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 34.6% of the lost-time claims and 32.2% of the disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. This was followed by the lower extremities, at 25.8% and 27.7%, and upper extremities, at 22.0% and 22.8% (see Table 7.2).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest relative proportion⁷ for lost-time claims for legs, at 2.4 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims where the other upper extremities and other trunk had relative proportions 2.2 and 2.1 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these part of body categories had relative proportions that were 1.8, 1.2 and 1.3 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

⁷ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.2
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2007

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	55	34.6%	65	32.2%
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	27	17.0%	32	15.8%
Other Trunk	28	17.6%	33	16.3%
Upper Extremities	35	22.0%	46	22.8%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	12	7.5%	16	7.9%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	9	5.7%	14	6.9%
Other Upper Extremities	14	8.8%	16	7.9%
Lower Extremities	41	25.8%	56	27.7%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	16	10.1%	23	11.4%
Leg(s)	24	15.1%	32	15.8%
Other Lower Extremities	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
Head	8	5.0%	12	5.9%
Eye(s)	0	0.0%	2	1.0%
Other Head Parts	8	5.0%	10	5.0%
Multiple Body Parts	15	9.4%	15	7.4%
Neck, Including Throat	4	2.5%	7	3.5%
Body Systems	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Part of Body - Unknown	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
Other Body Parts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that came into contact with the worker and resulted in an injury or disease. In 2007, two primary sources of injury in the Forestry industries accounted for over half of the lost-time claims and just under half of the disabling injury claims. Persons, plants, animals and minerals accounted for 28.9% of lost-time claims and 27.7% of disabling injury claims and vehicles accounted for 25.2% and 21.3% of claims respectively (see Table 7.3).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest relative proportion⁸ for lost-time claims for vehicles at 4.7 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for person – injured worker and machinery had relative proportions 1.9 and 1.8 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these source of injury categories had relative proportions that were 3.3, 1.2 and 1.1 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

⁸ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2007

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	46	28.9%	56	27.7%
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	34	21.4%	41	20.3%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	12	7.5%	15	7.4%
Vehicles	40	25.2%	43	21.3%
Structures and Surfaces	27	17.0%	35	17.3%
Parts and Materials	10	6.3%	14	6.9%
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	8	5.0%	10	5.0%
Hand tools - Nonpowered	3	1.9%	5	2.5%
Hand tools - Powered	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
Other Tools and Equipments	4	2.5%	4	2.0%
Machinery	10	6.3%	11	5.4%
Containers**	3	1.9%	5	2.5%
Furniture and Fixtures	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	1	0.6%	1	0.5%
Other Sources	5	3.1%	7	3.5%
Source of Injury - Unknown	9	5.7%	20	9.9%
Total	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

* Persons – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The two most common types of events or exposures in the Forestry industries were bodily reaction and exertion, accounting for 30.8% of lost-time claims and 30.2% of disabling injury claims, and contact with objects and equipment, accounting for 17.6% and 20.8%, respectively (see Table 7.4).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest relative proportion⁹ for lost-time claims for transportation accidents at 6.5 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for fall on same level had a relative proportion 2.1 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these types of event categories had relative proportions that were 5.0 and 1.6 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

⁹ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2007

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	49	30.8%	61	30.2%
Bodily Reaction*	22	13.8%	27	13.4%
Repetitive Motion	11	6.9%	12	5.9%
Overexertion	14	8.8%	19	9.4%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	2	1.3%	3	1.5%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	28	17.6%	42	20.8%
Struck by Object	18	11.3%	23	11.4%
Caught in Object	4	2.5%	6	3.0%
Struck against Object	3	1.9%	4	2.0%
Rubbed or Abraded	0	0.0%	2	1.0%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	3	1.9%	7	3.5%
Falls	36	22.6%	43	21.3%
Fall on Same Level	24	15.1%	29	14.4%
Fall to Lower Level	7	4.4%	9	4.5%
Other Falls	5	3.1%	5	2.5%
Transportation Accidents	35	22.0%	38	18.8%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	4	2.5%	5	2.5%
Assaults and Violent Acts	2	1.3%	2	1.0%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	2	1.3%	2	1.0%
Fires and Explosions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Events or Exposures	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Type of Event - Unknown	5	3.1%	11	5.4%
Total	159	100.0%	202	100.0%

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability¹⁰ is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can also impact workdays lost.

In 2007, 45.9% of the lost-time claims lasted for 31 days or more, while claims with duration of disability 10 days or less accounted for 27.7% of claims (see Table 7.5). For all sectors in the province, lost-time claims resulting in one to ten days lost accounted for 55.6% of the total claims, while those claims which resulted in 31 or more days lost 21.0%.

The median work days lost in 2007 was 26, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 60 days lost compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim.

Table 7.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2007

Duration of Disability	% of Forestry Industries' Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	18.9%	41.1%
6-10 Days	8.8%	14.5%
11-15 Days	8.2%	7.4%
16-20 Days	4.4%	5.1%
21-30 Days	10.7%	6.8%
31-40 Days	4.4%	4.8%
41-50 Days	5.0%	3.3%
51 Days or More	36.5%	12.9%
Unspecified	3.1%	4.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹⁰ The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2007, the WCB accepted four fatalities in the Forestry industries.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2007, no occupational fatalities in the Forestry industries were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 8.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that E&I typically investigates. In 2007, all four occupational fatalities in the Forestry industries were workplace incidents (see Table 8.1).

Latent Workplace and Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Latent fatalities consist of workers who were 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. These incidents were classified as occupational diseases. From 2007, these incidents will be separated out and included with either motor vehicle or workplace incident categories in accordance to their original injury.

Usually, other contributing factors cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure. A motor vehicle incident, where a worker received leg injuries requiring surgery is a good example of this. Complications during the surgery result in a blood clot causing a fatal stroke. Thus, the injury is classified latent because the original injury caused the requirement for surgery. In 2007, one of the workplace incident fatalities was a latent fatality.

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial

exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. In 2007, no occupational fatalities in the Forestry industries were due to occupational diseases (see Table 8.1).

Between 2003 and 2007, the WCB accepted 12 fatalities in the Forestry industries. All of the fatalities occurred in the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) industry.

Table 8.1
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB -
Alberta: 2003 - 2007

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident	Workplace Incident	Occupational Disease	Total
2003	1	0	0	1
2004	1	1	0	2
2005	1	0	0	1
2006	0	3	1	4
2007	0	4	0	4
Total	3	8	1	12

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by E&I¹¹.

In 2007, 10.7% of Forestry industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented over half of all person-years worked in the Forestry industries. In the Timber Management industry, 22.8% of employers were certified, covering 70.6% of all person-years worked in this industry (see Table 9.1).

**Table 9.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2007**

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Forestry	247	2,313	10.7%	53.8%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	213	2,164	9.8%	51.3%
Timber Management	34	149	22.8%	70.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forestry industries, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders was 2.95 per 100 person-years worked in 2007, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.65. For disabling injury rates, COR holders had a rate of 4.48 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.79 (see Table 9.2).

A low lost-time claim rate and high disabling injury rate can be indicative of proficient claims management. However, it may also be a reflection of larger employers having greater capacity to offer modified duties to injured workers than smaller employers.

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

The two groups also differ significantly in employer structure and size. COR holders account for 10.7% of employers in the Forestry industries (see Table 9.1) but 53.8% of the person-years worked. Analysis by employer size for all sectors of the province show

¹¹ For more information on the COR program visit www.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/partners

smaller employers tend to have better health and safety performance than medium-sized and large employers. For the Forestry industries a different pattern is displayed with smaller employers displaying higher lost-time claim and disabling injury rates (see Table 4.2).

**Table 9.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate for Forestry COR
Holders — Alberta: 2006 and 2007**

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2006	251	2,537	85	125	3.35	4.93	-12.0%	-9.1%
	2007	247	2,610	77	117	2.95	4.48		
Non-COR	2006	2,219	2,156	62	69	2.88	3.20	27.0%	18.3%
	2007	2,066	2,245	82	85	3.65	3.79		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

PART 2

**FOREST PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRIES**

HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time and higher disabling injury rates in 2007.

- In 2007, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries lost-time claim rate decreased by 6.0% to 1.82 per 100 person-years worked, from 1.93 in 2006. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 2.12 per 100 person-years worked.
- In 2007, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a duration rate of 38, a 10.1% increase from the 2006 rate of 35. This duration rate is lower than the provincial rate of 48 days lost per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate increased by 2.2%, from 4.28 per 100 person-years worked in 2006 to 4.19 in 2007. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 3.88 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time claim rate and increase in disabling injury rate in 2007 were the result of the decrease in number of lost-time being even greater than the decrease in the person-years worked estimates. Lost-time claims decreased by 11.2% and the person-years worked estimates by 5.6%. Disabling injury claims decreased by 3.5%.

Smaller employers experienced the highest injury rates.

- Employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked and employers with 10 person-years worked or less had the highest lost-time claim rate at 8.78 and 8.06 per 100 person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.
- Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 9.79 per 100 person-years worked.
- Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.33 and lowest disabling injury rate at 3.70 per 100 person-years worked.

Lower injury rates in some industries.

- Lost-time claim and disabling injury rates decreased in the Treating of Timber industry in 2007.
- The Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills industry and Sawmills and Planing Mills displayed decreases in lost-time rates and increases in disabling injury rates.
- The Forest Products Manufacturing industries accounted for 0.8% of the person-years worked in the province, 0.7% of the lost-time claims, and 0.9% of modified work claims and when combined, 0.9% of the disabling injury claims.

In 2007, sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 36.9% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Disabling injury claims connected with surface wounds and bruises, however, had a relative proportion 1.6 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher relative likelihood of this type of injury occurring.
- The upper extremities were the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 41.7% of the disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims connected with fingers and fingernails displayed a relative proportion that was 1.8 times the average for all sectors.
- The primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were parts and materials accounting for 29.3% of the disabling injury claims and persons, plants, animals and minerals accounting for 20.3% of the disabling injury claims. Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, machinery, displayed a relative proportion for lost-time claims that was 1.9 times higher than the average for all sectors.
- In 2007, the most common type of event or exposure was contact with objects and equipment which accounted for 44.8% disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims caused by caught in object however had a relative proportion that was 3.1 times the average for all sectors.
- The median days lost for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries were the same as the median days lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 23.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2007 lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries were 1.82 per 100 person-years and 4.28 per 100 person-years.

In 2007, there were 222 lost-time claims and 523 disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, representing less than one percent of the total lost-time and disabling injury claims in the province. The Forest Products Manufacturing industries lost-time claim rate was 1.82 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 6.0% from 2006. The number of lost-time claims decreased by 11.2% and the person-years worked by 5.6%. The disabling injury rate increased by 2.2% to 4.28 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 11.1). The 2006 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.35, while the disabling injury rate was 4.14 per 100 person-years worked.

**Table 11.1
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries - Alberta: 2006-2007**

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years	12,926	12,208	-5.6%
Lost-time claims	250	222	-11.2%
Lost-time claim rate	1.93	1.82	-6.0%
Modified-work claims	382	391	2.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	90	90	0.0%
Disabling injury claims	542	523	-3.5%
Disabling injury rate	4.19	4.28	2.2%
Duration rate	35	38	10.1%
Days lost (LTC)	4,504	4,685	4.0%
Compensation payments	\$1,529,631	\$2,023,298	32.3%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2007, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a duration rate of 38 days per 100 person-years worked. The average duration rate for all sectors of the province was 48. The median days lost for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was the same as the median days lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 23.

Since 2003, the average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province has decreased by 23.7%. Over the same time period, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries saw a 12.0% decrease, a result of lost-time claims falling by a greater rate than the person-years worked, a 22.4% decrease compared to 11.8%.

Size of Employer

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked and employers with 10 person-years worked or less had the highest lost-time claim rate at 8.78 and 8.06 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 9.79 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 1.33 and lowest disabling injury rate at 3.70 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 11.2).

For the province, employers with 40 to 99 person-years and employers with 20 to 39 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rates at 2.43 and 2.33 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 4.34 per 100 person-years worked.

Table 11.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Size¹² of Employer —
Alberta: 2007

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Person-Years Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injuries	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years	166	223	18	20	8.06	8.95
10 to 19 person-years	12	182	16	16	8.78	8.78
20 to 39 person-years	11	312	15	25	4.80	8.00
40 to 99 person-years	8	490	20	48	4.08	9.79
100 or more person-years	31	11,000	146	407	1.33	3.70
Unspecified	3	N/A*	7	7	N/A*	N/A*

These are employers with no payroll information

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of Injury Claims

Table 11.3 presents figures for the proportion of employers in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries with no lost-time claims and the proportion of employers with no disabling injury claims. Table 11.4 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2007, 72% of employers had no lost-time claims and 68% had no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the province are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of around 30% of employers (see Table 11.3). For all sectors in the province, 93% of employers submitted no lost-time claims and 91% no disabling injury claims.

These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2007, the number of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims translates to approximately 26% and 7% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries respectively.

¹² Size is measured in terms of person-years.

Table 11.3
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims - Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2007

Proportion of Employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	72%	68%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers with submitted claims, 33% submitted one lost-time claim, 55% two to five claims and 13% over six lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, similar proportions exist (see Table 4.4) although 34% submitted more than six disabling injury claims.

Employers who submitted one to five lost-time claims and employers who submitted one to five disabling injury claims accounted for around 53% and 25% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries respectively. Employers who submitted over six lost-time claims and employers who submitted over six disabling injury claims accounted for approximately 21% and 68% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries.

Table 11.4
Proportion of Employers with Claims - Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2007

1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
33%	55%	13%	0%
1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
31%	35%	26%	8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS

Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims for the Forest Product Manufacturing Industries

Over the period 2003 to 2007, the Treating of Timber industry had the highest lost-time claim rate each year, except in 2004, when the Sawmills and Planing Mills industry had the highest rate at 2.60 per 100 person-years. The Treating of Timber industry has a small number of accounts and claims which makes the claim rates volatile.

Although the Treating of Timber sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate at 7.25 and disabling injury rate at 10.48 per 100 person-years worked, the Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector accounted for 77.5% of the lost-time claims, 75.0% of disabling injury claims and 49.8% of the person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

Table 12.1

Lost-Time Claim Rate for the Forest Products Manufacturing Industries¹³ - Alberta: 2007

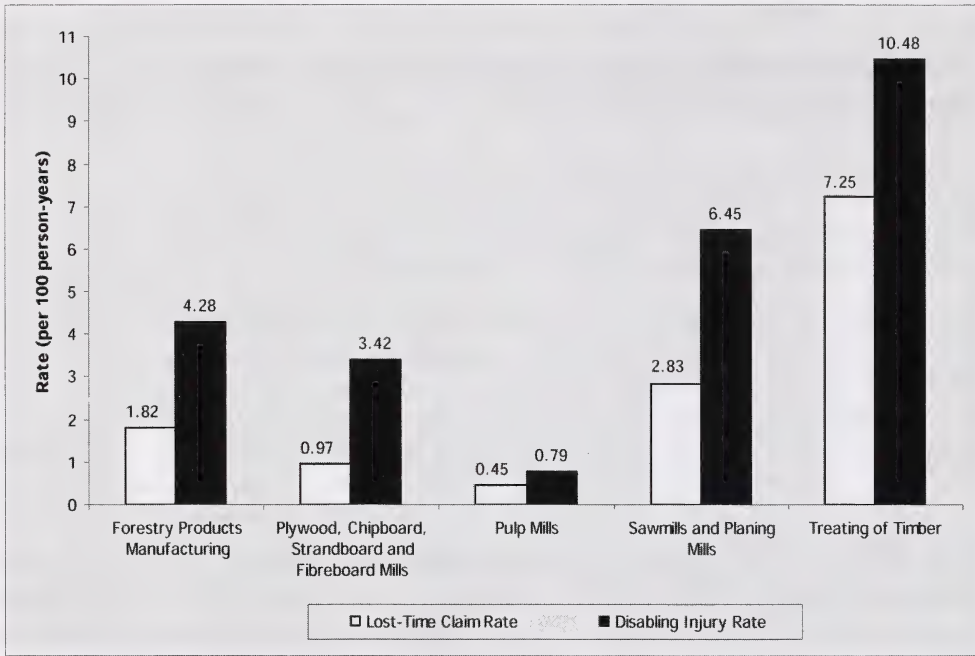
Sub-Sector	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Forest Products Manufacturing	2.07	1.69	2.14	1.93	1.82
Sawmills and Planing Mills	3.59	2.60	2.89	3.11	2.83
Treating of Timber	4.90	1.85	10.10	7.95	7.25
Pulp Mills	0.64	0.37	0.70	0.43	0.45
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	0.87	1.25	1.88	1.05	0.97

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹³ The Peeling and Pointing of Posts industry had no claims over the last five years and low person-years so have been removed from the analysis.

Chart 12.1

Lost-Time Claim Rate and Disabling Injury Rates for the Forest Products Manufacturing Industries¹⁴ - Alberta: 2007



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Sawmills and Planing Mills

In 2007, the lost-time claim rate for the Sawmill and Planing Mills industry decreased by 9.3%, to 2.83 per 100 person-years worked. The decrease was caused by the number of claims decreasing by an even greater amount than the person-years worked. Lost-time claims decreased by 9.9% and the person-years worked by 0.7%. The disabling injury rate increased by 0.5% to 6.45 per 100 person-years worked. The duration rate decreased from 57 days lost per 100 person-years worked to 56 (see Table 12.2).

Since 2003, this industry has seen a 21.3% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 12.0% and for all sectors of the province 23.7%.

¹⁴ Peeling and Pointing of Posts had no lost-time claims or disabling injuries in 2007 and are excluded from the analysis.

Table 12.2
Sawmills and Planing Mills - Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	6,119	6,075	-0.7%
Lost-time claims	62	66	6.5%
Lost-time claim rate	3.12	2.83	-9.3%
Modified-work claims	264	286	8.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	62	66	6.5%
Disabling injury claims	393	392	-0.3%
Disabling injury rate	6.42	6.45	0.5%
Duration rate	57	56	-1.3%
Days lost (LTC)	3,475	3,403	-2.1%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$1,085,397	\$1,217,377	12.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Treating of Timber

The lost-time claim rate for the Treating of Timber industry decreased by 8.7% to 7.25 per 100 person-years worked in 2007, and the disabling injury rate decreased by 23.7% to 10.48 per 100 person-years worked. These were the highest injury rates in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries in 2007. This industry has a small number of accounts, person-years worked and injury claims making the injury rates volatile over time. The duration rate in this industry is unavailable due to a low number of lost-time claims (see Table 12.3).

Table 12.3
Treating of Timber - Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	138	124	-10.4%
Lost-time claims	4	4	0.0%
Lost-time claim rate	7.95	7.25	-8.7%
Modified-work claims	12	8	-33.3%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	4	4	0.0%
Disabling injury claims	19	13	-31.6%
Disabling injury rate	13.73	10.48	-23.7%
Duration rate	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Days lost (LTC)	121	326	169.4%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$24,605	\$78,739	220.0%

* Duration rates are volatile when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Pulp Mills

In 2007, the lost-time claim rate for Pulp Mills increased from 0.43 per 100 person-years worked in 2006 to 0.45 in 2007. The disabling injury rate was 0.79 per 100 person-years worked. Both injury rates were the lowest in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 12.4).

Since 2003, this industry has seen a 29.3% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 12.0% and for all sectors of the province 23.7%.

Table 12.4
Pulp Mills - Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	3,507	3,306	-5.8%
Lost-time claims	6	5	-16.7%
Lost-time claim rate	0.43	0.45	6.1%
Modified-work claims	30	16	-46.7%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	6	5	-16.7%
Disabling injury claims	39	26	-33.3%
Disabling injury rate	1.11	0.79	-29.3%
Duration rate	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*
Days lost (LTC)	138	451	226.8%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$107,883	\$487,790	352.1%

* Duration rates are unstable when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills

The lost-time claim rate for the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills industry decreased by 7.8% to 0.97 per 100 person-years worked in 2007. The disabling injury rate increased by 18.3% to 3.42 per 100 person-years worked.

Since 2003, this industry has seen a 10.7% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 12.0% and for all sectors of the province 23.7%.

Table 12.5
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills -
Alberta: 2006-2007

	2006	2007	% Change
Person-years worked	3,147	2,689	-14.5%
Lost-time claims	18	15	-16.7%
Lost-time claim rate	1.05	0.97	-7.8%
Modified-work claims	76	81	6.6%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	18	15	-16.7%
Disabling injury claims	91	92	1.1%
Disabling injury rate	2.89	3.42	18.3%
Duration rate	24	19	-23.3%
Days lost (LTC)	770	505	-34.4%
Compensation payments (LTC)	\$311,746	\$239,391	-23.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 12.6 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time claims and the proportion of employers without disabling injury claims, by industry. Table 12.7 displays the respective person-years worked for those employers. Table 12.8 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2007, the Pulp Mills industry displayed higher proportions of employers with no lost-time claims and employers with no disabling injury claims at 81% and 73% (see Table 12.6), indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in this industry. These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2007, the number of employers with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to approximately 40% and 18% of the total person-years worked in this industry (see Table 12.7).

Table 12.6
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry - Alberta: 2007

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing	72%	68%
Sawmills and Planing Mills	72%	69%
Treating of Timber	50%	50%
Pulp Mills	81%	73%
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	68%	53%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 12.7
Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry - Alberta: 2007

Proportion of person-years accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing	26%	7%
Sawmills and Planing Mills	12%	4%
Treating of Timber	16%	16%
Pulp Mills	40%	18%
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	39%	2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For the number of employers with submitted claims, the Treating of Timber industry, the Pulp Mills industry, the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills industry and the Peeling of Posts industry have been grouped together due to the small number of employer accounts.

Table 12.8
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury
Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry - Alberta:
2007

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Sawmills and Planing Mills	37%	49%	14%	0%
Other Forest Product Manufacturing Industries	20%	73%	7%	0%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Sawmills and Planing Mills	35%	35%	20%	9%
Other Forest Product Manufacturing Industries	20%	35%	40%	5%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2007, the labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities occupation group accounted for 28.4% of lost-time claims, 24.7% of disabling injury claims and 11.9% of those in employment¹⁵ in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. In contrast, those employed as stationary engineers, power station operators and electrical trades and telecommunications occupations accounted for 3.6% of lost-time claims, 2.5% of disabling injury claims and 7.1% of employment (see Table 13.1).

Table 13.1
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation Group — Alberta: 2007

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	28.4%	24.7%	11.9%
Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations	23.4%	22.9%	3.1%
Machine Operators in Manufacturing	14.4%	15.5%	18.9%
Sales & Service Occupations N.E.C.	4.5%	3.4%	N/A*
Mechanics	4.5%	6.5%	4.7%
Stationary Engineers, Power Station Operators and Electrical Trades and Telecommunications Occupations	3.6%	2.5%	7.1%
Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Including Drillers	2.7%	2.7%	N/A*
Supervisors in Manufacturing	2.7%	1.5%	4.0%

* Employment figures have been suppressed due to issues with sample size.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2007, workers aged 35 to 54 accounted for 46.8% of the lost-time claims and 44.5% of the disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Young workers (those aged between 15 and 24 years) accounted for 20.8% of lost-time claims, 24.0% of disabling injury claims and 14.6% of those in employment¹⁶ (see Table 13.2).

¹⁵ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Wood Product and Paper Manufacturing industries.

¹⁶ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2007 Historical Review) for the Manufacturing (Durables) industry.

Table 13.2
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Age — Alberta:
2006-2007

Age	2006				2007			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	19	7.6%	40	7.4%	24	10.9%	52	10.0%
20-24 Years	33	13.2%	90	16.6%	28	12.7%	79	15.2%
25-34 Years	59	23.6%	145	26.8%	42	19.1%	124	23.8%
35-44 Years	65	26.0%	132	24.4%	55	25.0%	139	26.7%
45-54 Years	51	20.4%	101	18.6%	48	21.8%	93	17.9%
55-64 Years	19	7.6%	30	5.5%	18	8.2%	27	5.2%
65+ Years	4	1.6%	4	0.7%	5	2.3%	7	1.3%
Unspecified	0	N/A	0	N/A	2	N/A	2	N/A
Total	250	100.0%	542	100.0%	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, the majority of claims were from men. In 2007, 78.7% of lost-time claims and 80.8% of disabling injury claims involved men. Men comprised 80.0% of those employed¹⁷ in these industries (see Table 13.3).

Table 13.3
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Gender — Alberta:
2006-2007

Gender	2006				2007			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	43	17.4%	99	18.5%	47	21.3%	100	19.2%
Men	204	82.6%	436	81.5%	174	78.7%	422	80.8%
Unspecified	3	N/A	7	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A
Total	250	100.0%	542	100.0%	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

¹⁷ Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2007 Historical Review) for the Manufacturing (Durables) industry.

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Struck by objects and overexertion were the most common causes for lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the upper extremities becoming the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

In 2007, 92.3% of lost-time claims and 93.7% of disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The two most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, accounting for 37.8% of the lost-time claims and 36.9% of the disabling injury claims and surface wounds and bruises accounting for 13.1% and 18.9% respectively (see Table 14.1).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had similar or lower relative proportions¹⁸ of lost-time claims than the average in most injury categories, indicating a lower probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Open wounds had the highest relative proportion, 1.3 times the average for all sectors of the province.

For disabling injury claims, surface wounds and bruises, had the highest relative proportion at 1.6 times the average for all sectors in the province. Fractures and dislocations had a relative proportion of 1.5 times the average, followed by open wounds at 1.4 times the average for all sectors.

Note 14.1

Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Note 14.2

The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

¹⁸ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2007

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	205	92.3%	490	93.7%
Sprains, Strains and Tears	84	37.8%	193	36.9%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	29	13.1%	99	18.9%
Fractures and Dislocations	24	10.8%	52	9.9%
Open Wounds	31	14.0%	71	13.6%
Burns	2	0.9%	3	0.6%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	35	15.8%	72	13.8%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	13	5.9%	22	4.2%
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	1	0.5%	1	0.2%
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Nature of Injury - Unknown	3	1.4%	10	1.9%
Total	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2007, the upper extremities were the most common main body part injured, accounting for 32.0% of lost-time claims and 41.7% of disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. This was followed by the trunk at 30.2% and 27.2% of lost-time and disabling injury claims (see Table 14.2).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries to the fingers and fingernails had the highest relative proportion¹⁹ of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 1.3 times the average. Other head parts and other upper extremities had relative proportions that were 1.6 and 1.3 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these parts of body categories had relative proportions that were 1.8, 1.7 and 1.5 times the average for all sectors in the province.

¹⁹ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.2
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2007

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Upper Extremities	71	32.0%	218	41.7%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	34	15.3%	100	19.1%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	17	7.7%	68	13.0%
Other Upper Extremities	20	9.0%	50	9.6%
Trunk	67	30.2%	142	27.2%
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	43	19.4%	86	16.4%
Other Trunk	24	10.8%	56	10.7%
Lower Extremities	46	20.7%	100	19.1%
Leg(s)	18	8.1%	45	8.6%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	25	11.3%	51	9.8%
Other Lower Extremities	3	1.4%	4	0.8%
Head	27	12.2%	38	7.3%
Eye(s)	5	2.3%	7	1.3%
Other Head Parts	22	9.9%	31	5.9%
Multiple Body Parts	4	1.8%	11	2.1%
Neck, Including Throat	7	3.2%	13	2.5%
Body Systems	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Part of Body - Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Body Parts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

In 2007, two primary sources of injury in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries accounted for almost half of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Parts and materials accounted for 27.9% and 29.3%, and persons, plants, animals and minerals 20.3% and 20.3% respectively (see Table 14.3).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries caused by parts and materials had the highest relative proportion²⁰ of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 2.2 times the average. Machinery and other sources had relative proportions that were 1.9 and 1.3 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these parts of body categories had relative proportions that were 2.4, 1.9 and 1.3 times the average for all sectors in the province.

²⁰ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2007

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Parts and Materials	62	27.9%	153	29.3%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	45	20.3%	106	20.3%
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	35	15.8%	84	16.1%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	1	0.5%	1	0.2%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	9	4.1%	21	4.0%
Structures and Surfaces	24	10.8%	59	11.3%
Machinery	26	11.7%	50	9.6%
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	15	6.8%	35	6.7%
Hand tools - Nonpowered	9	4.1%	23	4.4%
Hand tools - Powered	1	0.5%	4	0.8%
Other Tools and Equipment	5	2.3%	8	1.5%
Vehicles	9	4.1%	25	4.8%
Containers**	8	3.6%	21	4.0%
Furniture and Fixtures	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Sources	16	7.2%	30	5.7%
Source of Injury - Unknown	17	7.7%	43	8.2%
Total	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

* Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

In 2006, two types of events or exposures comprised more than three-quarters of lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Contact with objects and equipment accounted for 42.0% and 44.8%, followed by bodily reaction and exertion at 34.0% and 34.3% of claims (see Table 14.4).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries caused by caught in object had the highest relative proportion²¹ of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 2.9 times the average. Repetitive motion and struck against object had relative proportions that were 1.3 and 1.1 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these types of event categories had relative proportions that were 3.1, 1.3 and 1.6 times the average for all sectors in the province.

²¹ The relative proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2007

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	91	41.0%	246	47.0%
Struck by Object	35	15.8%	99	18.9%
Caught in Object	33	14.9%	87	16.6%
Struck against Object	15	6.8%	43	8.2%
Rubbed or Abraded	5	2.3%	9	1.7%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	3	1.4%	8	1.5%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	81	36.5%	167	31.9%
Overexertion	44	19.8%	79	15.1%
Bodily Reaction*	21	9.5%	52	9.9%
Repetitive Motion	12	5.4%	28	5.4%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	4	1.8%	8	1.5%
Falls	24	10.8%	57	10.9%
Fall on Same Level	16	7.2%	37	7.1%
Fall to Lower Level	5	2.3%	14	2.7%
Other Falls	3	1.4%	6	1.1%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	11	5.0%	12	2.3%
Transportation Accidents	5	2.3%	11	2.1%
Fires and Explosions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Assaults and Violent Acts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Events or Exposures	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Type of Event - Unknown	10	4.5%	30	5.7%
Total	222	100.0%	523	100.0%

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability²² is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. The efforts of employers to introduce modified-work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce also have a positive impact on workdays lost.

In 2007, 48.2% of lost-time claims lasted for 10 days or less. Lost-time claims resulting in 31 days lost or more accounted for 21.2% (see Table 14.5). For all sectors in the province, those claims resulting in one to ten days-lost accounted for 55.6% of total claims, while those claims which resulted in 31 or more days-lost accounted for 21.0%.

The median days-lost in 2007 for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was the same as the median days-lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 23.

Table 14.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2007

Duration of Disability	% of Forest Product Manufacturing Industries' Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	39.2%	41.1%
6-10 Days	9.0%	14.5%
11-15 Days	8.1%	7.4%
16-20 Days	6.3%	5.1%
21-30 Days	8.1%	6.8%
31-40 Days	6.3%	4.8%
41-50 Days	3.2%	3.3%
51 Days or More	11.7%	12.9%
Unspecified	8.1%	4.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

²² The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2007 the WCB accepted three fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. Between 2003 and 2007, there were no motor vehicle incident fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 15.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that E&I typically investigates. Between 2003 and 2007, there were two workplace fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries accepted by the WCB (see Table 15.1).

Latent Workplace and Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Latent fatalities consist of workers who were 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. These incidents were classified as occupational diseases. From 2002, these incidents will be separated out and included with either motor vehicle or workplace incident categories in accordance to their original injury.

Usually, other contributing factors cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure. A motor vehicle incident where a worker received leg injuries requiring surgery is a good example of this. Complications during the surgery result in a blood clot causing a fatal stroke. Thus, the injury is classified latent because the original injury caused the requirement for surgery. In 2007, there were no latent fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial

exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. Between 2003 and 2007, there were five occupational disease fatalities accepted by the WCB in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 15.1).

Table 15.1
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB -
Alberta: 2003 - 2007

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident	Workplace Incident	Occupational Disease	Total
2003	0	0	1	1
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	2	0	2
2006	0	0	1	1
2007	0	0	3	3
Total	0	2	5	7

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2003 and 2007, the WCB accepted seven fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. The Pulp Mills industry had four fatalities while the Sawmills and Planing Mills industry had three (see Table 15.2).

Table 15.2
Forest Products Manufacturing Occupational Fatalities Accepted by
the WCB by Industry - Alberta: 2002 - 2006

Industry	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Peeling and Pointing of Posts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulp Mills	1	0	0	0	3	4
Sawmills and Planing Mills	0	0	2	1	0	3
Treating of Timber	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	1	0	2	1	3	7

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

In 2007, 17.3% of Forest Products Manufacturing industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 89.0% of all person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

The Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills industry had the highest proportion of COR holders with 36.8% of employers certified, covering 87.7% of the person-years in this industry. The Pulp Mills industry had a comparatively smaller proportion of employers certified but these employers accounted for 98.7% of the all person-years worked in this industry (see Table 16.1).

**Table 16.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2007**

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Forest Products Manufacturing	40	231	17.3%	89.0%
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	7	19	36.8%	87.7%
Pulp Mills	8	26	30.8%	98.7%
Sawmills and Planing Mills	24	178	13.5%	85.2%
Treating of Timber	1	8	12.5%	49.1%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders was 1.82 per 100 person-years worked in 2007, while the rate for non-COR holders was 4.02. For disabling injury rates, COR holders had a rate of 3.98 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders was 5.25 (see Table 8.2).

A low lost-time claim rate and high disabling injury rate can be indicative of proficient claims management. However, it may also be a reflection of larger employers having greater capacity to offer modified duties to injured workers than smaller employers.

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good

programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

The two groups also differ significantly in employer structure and size. COR holders account for 17.3% of employers in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 16.1) but 89.0% of the person-years worked. Analysis by employer size for all sectors of the province show smaller employers tend to have better health and safety performance than medium-sized and large employers. For the Forest Products Manufacturing industries a different pattern is displayed with smaller employers displaying the highest lost-time claim rates (see Table 11.2).

Table 16.2

Lost-Time Claim Rate for Forest Products Manufacturing COR Holders - Alberta: 2006 and 2007

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2006	295	14,137	257	554	1.82	3.92	-8.2%	1.7%
	2007	287	13,480	225	537	1.67	3.98		
Non-COR	2006	2,415	3,482	140	182	4.02	5.23	8.3%	0.4%
	2007	2,257	3,584	156	188	4.35	5.25		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

REFERENCES

- Alberta Employment and Immigration. "Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta 2007 Summary"
- Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada. National Work Injury and Disease Statistics for 2006, December 2007.
- Canadian Standards Association. Z795-03: Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information, June 2003.
- International Labour Organization. "Safety in Numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work." 2003.
http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/worldday/report_eng.pdf
- Statistics Canada. "Guide to the Labour Force Survey" 2006.
- Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2007 Historical Review) for the Manufacturing (Durables) industry
- The Workers' Compensation Board - Alberta. "Rate and Industry Description Manual"
- The Workers' Compensation Board. "2008 Premium Rate Manual".
- WorkplaceToday magazine "News" October 2003.
<http://www.workplace.ca/preview/magsecure/2003m10/news/article3658.html>

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

**Lost-Time
Claim**

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.

**Modified
Work
Claim**

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

**Disabling
Injury
Claim**

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**

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.

**Lost-Time
Claim Rate**

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.

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

Disabling Injury Rate

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 worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

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

Duration (Days-lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays-lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years worked, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-years worked}}$$

Industry Coverage

About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

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.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years worked estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities} \times 1,000,000}{\text{Person-years worked}}$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries}}{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province}} \times \frac{\text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}}$$

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}}$$

Labour Force
Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications - employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force - and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification from WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see <http://employment.alberta.ca/cps/rde/xchg/hre/hs.xsl/67.html>

APPENDIX B: FORESTRY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES WCB CODES

1. Forestry

- 03100 – Logging and Woodlands Operations, including Trucking of Logs
- 03902 – Timber Management

2. Forest Products Manufacturing

- 25100 – Sawmills and Planing Mills
- 25900 – Peeling and Pointing of Posts
- 25901 – Treating of Timber
- 27102 – Pulp Mills
- 27103 – Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about the data presented in this report contact:

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration
Data Development and Evaluation
2nd Floor, 10808 – 99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0G5

Telephone: 780-427-8531, toll free by calling 310-0000

Fax: 780-422-5070

Employment and Immigration website:

<http://employment.alberta.ca>

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org

Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

<http://employment.alberta.ca/whs-contact>

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/whs-partnerships>

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada



3 3286 54110604 9