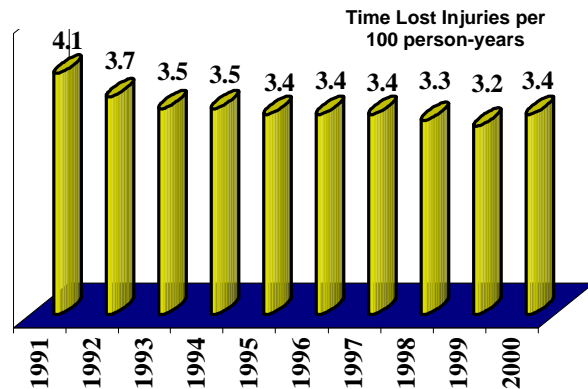




# WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY FACT SHEET

## WORKPLACE SAFETY TRENDS

*After 10 years of declining lost-time claim rates, Alberta's workplace injury rates increased in 2000. The lost-time claim rate in that year was 3.4 per 100 person-years worked.*



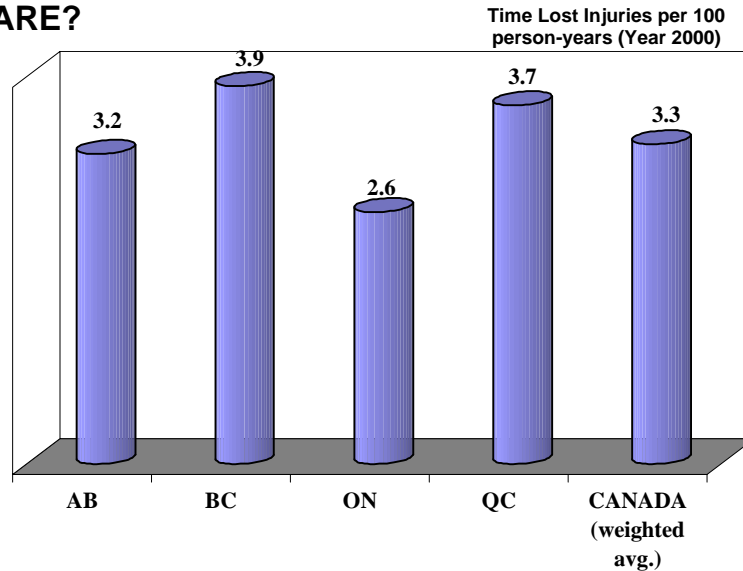
## WHAT DOES THIS REALLY MEAN?

*In the year 2000, 118 workplace fatalities occurred in Alberta -- an average of more than two deaths per week. Another 2,600 workers became permanently disabled. In the same year, 38,500 injuries and illnesses extending beyond the day of the incident were reported. (Not included are the injuries sustained by the one-quarter of Alberta workers who are exempt from WCB coverage.) The average amount of time lost per injury exceeds 50 days.*

*Workplace injuries and illnesses impose high personal and family impacts on those Albertans directly affected. Three percent of workers have a lost-time injury in a given year. The societal costs, measured in terms of lost wages and output, and medical and other costs are estimated at roughly \$3 billion annually in Alberta. Those costs are equal to more than 2% of the province's annual G.D.P.*

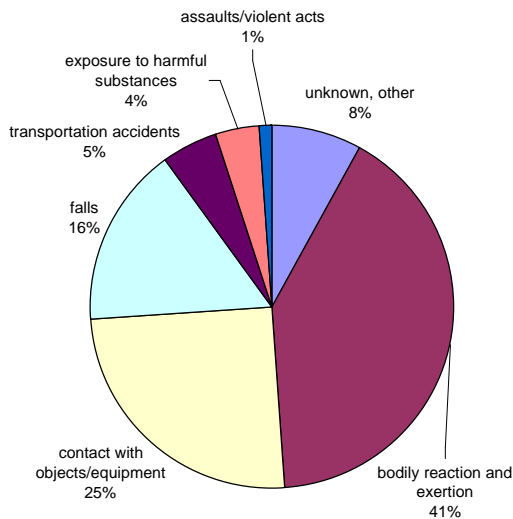
## HOW DOES ALBERTA COMPARE?

*Alberta's lost-time claim rate is close to the national average -- below B.C. and Quebec levels, but above Ontario's.*



SOURCE: Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada

## TYPES OF WORKPLACE INJURIES AND ILLNESSES



*Incidents relating to bodily reaction and exertion, contact with objects and equipment, and falls account for more than four-fifths of all injuries.*

## INDUSTRY PATTERNS

*Workplace injury rates are associated with industry sector and company size.*

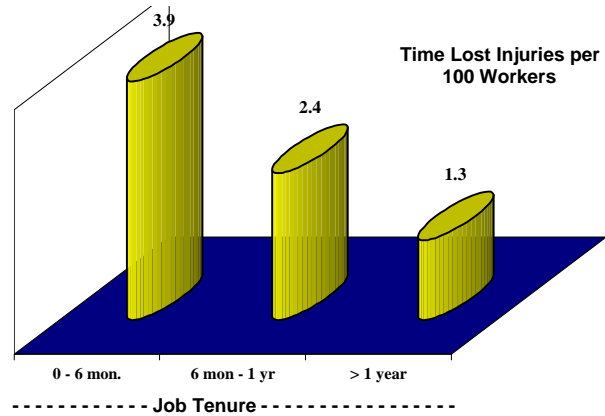
Above-average lost-time claim rates are exhibited by small and medium-sized companies and within such industries as:

- manufacturing;
- agriculture/forestry;
- transportation, communications, and utilities; and,
- construction.

Injury and illness rates can vary significantly within particular components of those industries and from company to company. Similarly, industries having relatively low lost-time claim rates can have high-injury sub-sectors and individual employers.

## EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE AND OCCUPATION

*Workers new to their jobs experience relatively high injury rates.*



*Injury rates vary significantly by occupation. Ten of the fifteen highest-injury occupations involve manual lifting of materials or patients; the others, including welders and cooks, have hazards intrinsic to the work.*

*Injury claims by occupation in descending order of frequency:*

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Truck Drivers                | 9. Shipping and receiving clerks           |
| 2. Labourers - non-construction | 10. Personal service providers             |
| 3. Welders and cutters          | 11. Nursing aides and orderlies            |
| 4. Sales clerks - commodities   | 12. Nurses - except supervisors            |
| 5. Freight handlers             | 13. Labourers - service sector             |
| 6. Chefs and cooks              | 14. Labourers - material handling          |
| 7. Carpenters                   | 15. Mechanics - industrial, farm machinery |
| 8. Janitors and cleaners        |  |