Private sector results – near record low

Oregon workers employed in the private sector during calendar year 2004 suffered work-related injuries and illnesses at a rate of 5.8 for every 100 full-time employees. The 2004 total-cases-incidence rate of 5.8 increased slightly compared to the record low rate of 5.6 in 2003. Of the 71,389 total recordable cases in 2004, 52.0 percent resulted in cases with lost worktime (days away from work, restriction, or transfer).

Industry lost-workday-cases rates

The private sector cases with days away from work, job transfer, or restriction rate (DART) remained at 3.1 in 2004. The DART rate includes injury and illness cases that resulted in one or more days away from work (lost-workday cases). The following figures compare 1994-2001 occupational injury and illness incidence rates and present 2002-2004 rates based on the revised recordkeeping requirements.

In 2004, the highest rate among industry divisions was 5.3, which was recorded by the transportation and warehousing industry. Management of companies and enterprises reported the lowest rate of 0.4. Industry data are based on NAICS. NAICS is the North American Industry Classification System, which replaced the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system as the means of classifying businesses by the type of activity in which they are primarily engaged. The BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses first reported NAICS-based data for its 2003 results.

Public-sector results

The public sector reported a total-cases-incidence rate of 5.4 in 2004. State government recorded a total-cases rate of 4.0, while local government registered a rate of 5.7.

The 2004 public sector DART rate consists of the state government’s rate of 2.2 and the local government’s rate of 2.4. The overall DART rate was 2.4.
National survey results
The total-cases-incidence rate for the private sector nationwide was 4.8 in 2004. The DART rate was 2.5, and the incidence rate for other recordable cases was 2.3. The Oregon total-cases-incidence rate and DART rate exceeded the national rates by 20.8 and 24.0 percent, respectively. The Oregon cases-without-lost-workdays incidence rate was 17.4 percent higher than the national figure. One reason Oregon rates are higher than national rates is attributable to a higher proportion of Oregon’s workforce in hazardous industries.

The number of injuries and illnesses reported in any year can be influenced by the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.

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Note: Due to rounding, lost-workday cases and nonfatal-without-lost-workday cases rates may not sum to total-cases rates.

*The 2002-2004 rates are based on revised recordkeeping requirements and are not comparable to previous years’ rates.

Data in this summary are based upon the annual Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) survey, which collects data from a scientifically selected sample of employer establishments across the state. This should be distinguished from the data collected from workers’ compensation claims submitted to the department by insurers.

For further information or to access the 2004 Oregon Occupational Injury and Illness tables and appendices, please call the Oregon Department of Consumer & Business Services, Research & Analysis Section, (503) 378-8254.