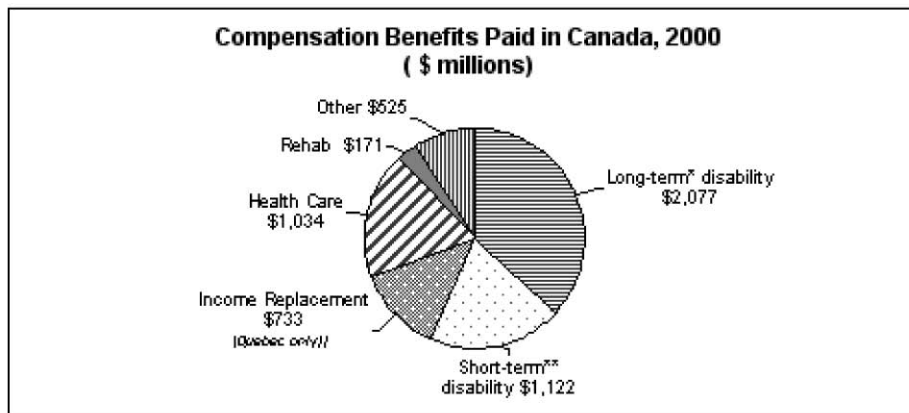


The facts on compensation benefits paid across Canada-2000

- In 2000, \$5.7 billion in workers' compensation benefits were disbursed across Canada to compensate injured workers and to provide them with health-care treatment and rehabilitation.
- The majority of the benefits paid were wage-loss compensation, which includes long- and short-term disability (\$3.9 billion).
- Payments for medical and rehabilitation services provided to injured workers totalled \$1.2 billion.



*It is important to note that the definitions of short- and long-term disability benefits may vary slightly in other provinces. In Ontario, long-term disability benefits are payments to workers who have a permanent impairment as a result of a workplace injury or who are still off work one year after their injury.

**In Ontario, short-term disability benefits are those paid to a worker up to one year following their injury.

†See note 6 in table (page 3 of this document)

- The Canadian labour force comprises approximately 14.9 million people. About 80 per cent of those workers (11.9 million) are covered by workers' compensation if they are injured on the job. This means that about 3 million workers are not covered.
- Between provinces, the proportion of the labour force covered by workers' compensation, ranges from a low of 67.1 per cent in Nova Scotia to a high of 96.7 per cent in Newfoundland. In Ontario, 68.9 per cent of the labour force is covered.
- The average benefit cost per insured employee ranged from a low of \$332.73 in New Brunswick to a high of \$578.86 in Ontario. The Canadian average was \$475.61. These provincial differences are partially explained by differences between provinces in wage levels, differing employment mixes across industrial sectors, and differences in the existence and the levels of additional premiums to cover future liabilities. Please see page 3 of this document to view the full breakdown of benefits paid by province.

Where the data came from

The data for this briefing were compiled by Roman Dolinschi, Institute for Work & Health. The data were drawn from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada *Key Statistical Measures-2001* and the 2001 financial statements from ten of the provincial workers' compensation boards. While data on total benefits paid have been presented in the past, the data here break down the compensation benefits paid into their various components-wage-loss compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, and other (including survivor benefits and province-specific programs such as Ontario's Labour Market Re-entry Program).

Caution must be exercised when interpreting these data. Each Board has its own set of operating procedures and the acts and regulations governing compensation are not identical. Therefore definitions of benefits payments may differ, payments may be allocated into different categories, and the types of businesses covered by WCBs may vary from province to province.

It is also important to note that the benefits reported here are those paid in 2001 for current and previous injuries. They are not "total costs" for injuries that year, which would include current and future costs of injury. Those costs can be found in the AWCBC annual report. In addition, administrative expenses associated with processing claims are not included in the totals presented. The findings of this IWH briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of the AWCBC or any of its member Workers' Compensation Boards or Commissions.

Related Institute research

Campolieti M, Lavis JN. Disability expenditures in Canada, 1970-1994: trends, reform efforts and a path for the future. *Canadian Public Policy* 2000; XXVI(2):241-264.

The Institute has a number of experts who can discuss work-related health and disability issues. Contact Kathy Knowles Chapeskie (kchapeskie@iwh.on.ca) at 416-927-2027, ext. 2115 for more information.

The Institute for Work & Health is an independent, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to research and promote new ways to prevent workplace disability, improve treatment, and optimize recovery and safe return to work. The Institute has been providing research and evidence-based, practical tools for clinicians, policy-makers, employees and managers since 1990. It operates with the support of the Ontario Workplace Safety & Insurance Board.

Workers Compensation Benefits Paid for the Year 2000 (\$millions)

	BC ¹	Alta ²	Sask ³	Man ⁴	Ont ⁵	Que ⁶	NB ⁷	NS ⁸	PEI ⁹	Nfld ¹⁰	Total
Wage-Loss Compensation											
Long-term disability	267	93	32	41	1,334	192	24	53	8	32	2,077
Short-term disability	315	189	49	45	418	0	34	30	5	37	1,122
Income-replacement (PQ)					733						733
Total Wage-Loss Compensation	582	282	81	86	1,752	925	58	83	13	69	3,932
Medical and Rehabilitation											
Health care	216	129	37	28	300	238	28	24	5	29	1,034
Rehabilitation	85	26	9	3	0	44	0	2	1	3	171
Total Medical and Rehabilitation	301	155	46	31	300	282	28	26	6	32	1,205
Other											
Survivor benefits	56	72	10	15	127	39	8	14	0	7	347
Labour market re-entry (ONT)					163						163
Economic and social stabilization (PQ)					15						15
Total Compensation Benefits Paid (\$millions)	938	510	138	133	2,342	1,261	95	124	19	107	5,666
Average premium rate per \$100 of payroll ¹¹	1.75	1.12	1.73	1.46	2.29	2.07	1.6	2.55	1.98	3.24	
2000 employed labour force participants (thousands) ¹²	1,949.10	1,588.20	485	554.4	5,872.10	3,437.70	334.4	419.5	64.5	204.6	14,909.50
Percent of workforce covered (AWCBC) ^{11 13}	93.9	76.5	77.7	70	68.9	94.2	85	67.1	85.8	96.7	79.9
Number of employees covered (thousands)	1,830.20	1,215	376.8	388.1	4,045.90	3,238.30	284.2	281.5	55.3	197.8	11,913.20
Benefits paid per covered employee	512.61	419.84	365.61	341.6	578.86	389.49	332.73	440.34	343.29	539	475.61

*note: some totals may not agree due to rounding.

Notes:

1. British Columbia data come from note 7 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
2. Alberta data come from note 9 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
3. Saskatchewan data come from note 7 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
4. Manitoba data come from note 10 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
5. Ontario data come from note 7 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
6. Quebec data come from Table 6 of the Rapport d'activité 2000. Quebec uses different categories for "benefits paid" and does not have a breakdown by short- and long-term disability. As a result, Quebec's reported results were apportioned to the table categories where possible. For example, bodily injury and permanent disability benefits were placed under long-term disability.
7. Death benefits were placed under survivor benefits. Income replacement could not be apportioned and therefore was pulled out as a separate category within the table.
8. New Brunswick data come from note 7 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
9. Nova Scotia data come from note 10 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
10. PEI data come from note 7 and note 11 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
11. Newfoundland data come from note 9 of the year 2000 Financial Report.
12. Average premium rate and per cent of workforce covered (AWCBC) are taken from the AWCBC Key Statistical Measures -2000.
13. Provincial 2000 employment is provided by Statistics Canada and represents annual average number of employed workers age 15 years and over. This data is taken from the following CANSIM II series: BC - V166832; Alta - V166547; Sask - V166262; Man - V165977; Ont - V165692; Que - V1655407; NB - V165122; NS - V164837; PEI - V164837; Nfld - V164552.
14. Alternative estimates of the per cent of workforce covered are available in Sullivan T, Sinclair S, Allingham R. Health, safety and injuries in Canada. Presentation to the Melbourne Invitational Seminar, Melbourne Australia, March 13-14, 2001.