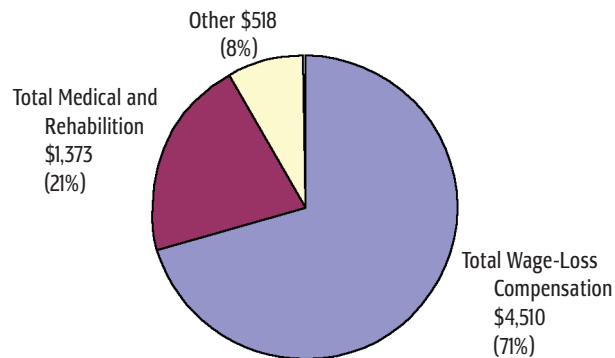


## The facts on compensation benefits paid across Canada-2003

- In 2003, \$6.4 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 (\$4.5 billion).
- Payments for medical and rehabilitation services provided to injured workers totalled almost \$1.4 billion.

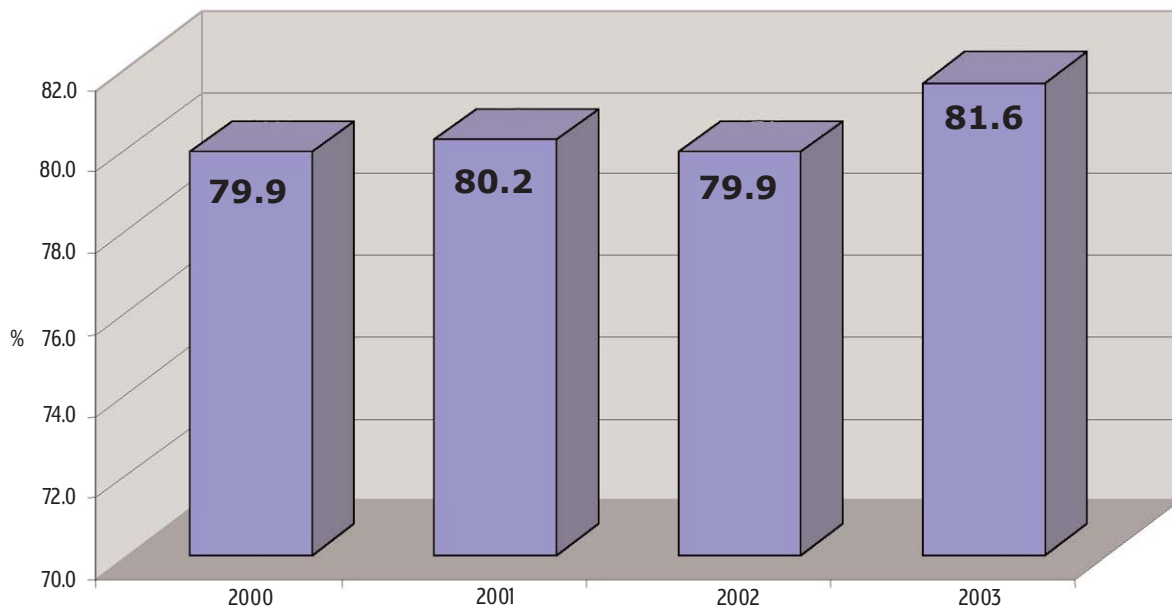
### Compensation Benefits Paid in Canada, 2003 (\$ million)



\*It is important to note that the definitions of benefit categories may vary across provinces.

- The Canadian labour force in 2003 consisted of 15.7 million people, and almost 82 per cent of those workers (12.8 million) were covered by workers' compensation if they were injured on the job. This implies that 2.9 million workers were not covered.
- The average amount of benefits paid per insured employee ranged from a low of \$250.37 in Prince Edward Island to a high of \$609.05 in Ontario. The Canadian average was \$439.19. 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.
- Across provinces, the proportion of the labour force covered by workers' compensation ranged from a low of 67.4 per cent in Manitoba to a high of 97 per cent in Newfoundland. In Ontario, an estimated 71.3 per cent of the labour force was covered.
- Notably, between 2000 and 2003 the percentage of the labour force covered by workers' compensation in Canada rose by nearly 2 per cent. (see chart on page 2).

## Percent of workforce covered by workers' compensation in Canada, 2000-2003



\* The data obtained for this chart come from tables in the AWCBC's *Key Statistical Measures* for 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. The national per cent of workforce covered is a weighted average calculated for all Canadian jurisdictions, including those provinces and territories not listed in the table above. It is obtained by dividing the total number of workers covered by the total employed labour force, multiplied by 100. For more information, see AWCBC's *Key Statistical Measures* tables and accompanying notes.

### 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-2003* and the 2003 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 2003 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 at 416-927-2027 ext. 2115 or by e-mail at [kchapeskie@iwh.on.ca](mailto:kchapeskie@iwh.on.ca) for more information.

## Workers' Compensation Benefits Paid for the Year 2003 (in millions, current \$)

	BC <sup>1</sup>	AB <sup>2</sup>	SK <sup>3</sup>	MB <sup>4</sup>	ON <sup>5</sup>	PQ <sup>6</sup>	NB <sup>7</sup>	NS <sup>8</sup>	PEI <sup>9</sup>	NF <sup>10</sup>	Total
<b>Wage-Loss Compensation</b>											
Short-term and Long-term Disability	586.687	315.500	106.433	91.061	1,388.000	192.048	71.440	105.283	11.045	68.672	2,936
Loss of Earnings (ON)					627.000						
Income-replacement (PQ)						946.944					
<b>Total Wage-Loss Compensation</b>	<b>586.687</b>	<b>315.500</b>	<b>106.433</b>	<b>91.061</b>	<b>2,015.000</b>	<b>1,138.992</b>	<b>71.440</b>	<b>105.283</b>	<b>11.045</b>	<b>68.672</b>	<b>4,510</b>
<b>Medical and Rehabilitation</b>											
Health Care	176.287	188.023	44.829	34.708	386.000	274.743	34.856	32.653	3.826	32.955	1,209
Rehabilitation	60.109	35.270	5.390	3.463	0	55.702	0 <sup>7</sup>	1.783	0.808	1.994	165
<b>Total Medical and Rehabilitation</b>	<b>236.396</b>	<b>223.293</b>	<b>50.219</b>	<b>38.171</b>	<b>386.000</b>	<b>330.445</b>	<b>34.856</b>	<b>34.436</b>	<b>4.634</b>	<b>34.949</b>	<b>1,373</b>
<b>Other</b>											
Survivor Benefits	59.607	50.738	10.231	14.143	147.000	37.332	8.957	13.416	0	6.548	348
Labour market re-entry (ON)					157.000						
Economic and social stabilization (PQ)						13.061					
<b>Total Compensation Benefits Paid (\$millions)</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>1,520</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>6,402</b>
Average premium rate per \$100 of payroll <sup>11</sup>	1.94	1.94	1.81	1.62	2.19 <sup>5</sup>	1.93	2.03	2.58	2.42	3.36	
2003 employed labour force participants (thousands) <sup>12</sup>	2,023.342	1,721.408	486.725	568.767	6,229.142	3,648.833	345.033	435.575	68.817	217.500	15,745.142
Percent of workforce covered (AWCBC) <sup>11</sup>	93.3	82.9	72.7	67.4	71.3	93.8	96.3	71.3	91.0	97.0	81.6
Number of employees covered (thousands)	1,887.778	1,427.048	353.849	383.349	4,441.378	3,422.606	332.267	310.565	62.623	210.975	12,832.437
Benefits paid per covered employee (\$)	467.58	413.11	471.62	374.01	609.05	444.06	346.87	493.09	250.37	522.19	439.19

### Notes:

1. British Columbia data come from note 7 of the Financial Report for 2003.
2. Alberta data come from note 9 of the Financial Report for 2003.
3. Saskatchewan data come from note 9 of the Financial Report for 2003.
4. Manitoba data come from note 10 of the Financial Report for 2003.
5. Ontario data come from note 8 of the Financial Report for 2003. Due to discrepancy between the actual average assessment rate reported in the Board's annual report and AWCBC's KSM table, the reported average premium rate per \$100 of payroll is the finalized rate taken from the Board's end-of-the-year annual report.
6. Quebec data come from Données d'exploitation 2003. Quebec uses different categories for "benefits paid".  
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 short- and long-term disability. 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.
7. New Brunswick data come from note 7 of the Financial Report for 2003. In New Brunswick, the short-term disability category also includes rehabilitation benefits ("Short-term disability and rehabilitation").
8. Nova Scotia data come from note 8 of the Financial Report for 2003.
9. PEI data come from note 7 and note 11 of the Financial Report for 2003.
10. Newfoundland data come from note 8 of the Financial Report for 2003.
11. Average premium rate and per cent of workforce covered (AWCBC) are taken from the AWCBC Key Statistical Measures - 2003.
12. Provincial 2003 employment is provided by Statistics Canada and represents annual average number employed workers age 15 years and over. These data are taken from the following CANSIM II series:  
BC - V2064701; AB - V2064512; SK - V2064323; MB - V2064134; ON - V2063945; PQ - V2063756; NB - V2063567; NS - V2063378; PEI - V2063189; NF - V2063000.