

# Background

## **B.C.'s Petroleum Industry<sup>1</sup>, 1998-2002**

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### ***How many employers are there in B.C.'s petroleum industry?***

There are currently 1,891 active petroleum industry employers registered with the WCB. For 2002, petroleum industry employers collectively reported \$479 million in total assessable payroll.

### ***How does the petroleum industry's injury rate compare to other industries in B.C.?***

The petroleum industry injury rate has remained lower than the overall B.C. injury rate. Between 1998 and 2002, the petroleum industry had an average injury rate of 2.0 (per one-hundred person-years), compared to the provincial average of 3.8. Over the same period, the rate declined from 2.2 in 1998, to 1.8 by 2002, while the overall B.C. rate declined from 4.2 to 3.2.

### ***What are the general claim, serious injury<sup>2</sup> claim, and fatality statistics for the petroleum industry?***

Between 1998 and 2002, there were 1,408 claims accepted from the petroleum industry, averaging approximately 282 per year. During the same five year period, 65 serious injury claims and 32 fatality claims were accepted.

### ***Which occupations have the highest number of injuries?***

Petroleum occupations with the highest number of injuries include: petroleum drilling, servicing and related labourers (8%); fuel-oil truck drivers (6%); floorman/woman for petroleum wells (6%); and gas well, oil well, and test hole drillers (6%).

### ***Which types of accidents are most common?***

The three most common types of accident are: musculoskeletal injuries-MSIs (20%), being struck by an object (15%), and falling to a lower level (13%).

### ***What are the most common sources of injury?***

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<sup>1</sup> The Petroleum industry is comprised of eleven WCB assessment classification units: 704002, 704003, 704004, 704009, 704010, 704015, 704016, 713018, 713019, 721038, and 767005.

<sup>2</sup> Serious injuries are based on claims with a first short term disability payment between 1998 to 2002, and include claims involving major fractures (e.g., skull, spine, pelvis), amputations, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns, multiple fractures, and other serious spinal or head injuries.

Common sources of injury include: the bodily motion or position, of the injured or ill worker (13%), the ground (9%), floors, walkways and ground surfaces (6%), and trucks (6%).

**What do petroleum industry claims cost, and how many work days have been lost?**

Between 1998 and 2002, the WCB paid approximately \$46 million in petroleum industry claims. Approximately 119,350 lost work days were paid in this period.

**What is the typical claimant profile?**



	General Claim	Serious Injury Claim
<b>Occupation</b>	Petroleum drilling, servicing and related labourer	Gas well, oil well, and test hold driller
<b>Gender</b>	Male	Male
<b>Age</b>	25-44 years	25-44 years
<b>Accident/injury/body part</b>	MSI overexertion; sprains, strains, tears; back, including spine, spinal cord	Struck by object; fractures; legs
<b>Injury source</b>	Bodily motion or position, of injured or ill worker	Floors, walkways, ground surfaces
<b>Average claim cost<sup>3</sup></b>	\$23,000	\$103,000
<b>Average days lost<sup>4</sup></b>	79	189

<sup>3</sup> Average claim cost is based on the costs paid to date for claims with a first short term disability payment from 1998 to 2002. This figure can increase over time for ongoing claims.

<sup>4</sup> Average days lost is based on the lost days paid to date for claims with a first short term disability payment from 1998 to 2002. This figure can increase over time for ongoing claims.