WorkSafeBC's Funded Position (Surplus)

WorkSafeBC is committed to the long-term financial sustainability of the workers' compensation system for workers and employers. In fact, WorkSafeBC has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that adequate funding is set aside for all future payments related to current and previously accepted claims.

Target funding level

To ensure the long-term security of worker benefits and avoid rate volatility during economic and/or investment downturns, WorkSafeBC retains a reasonable level of assets over liabilities. WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has approved a target funding level of no less than 130 per cent of liabilities.[1]

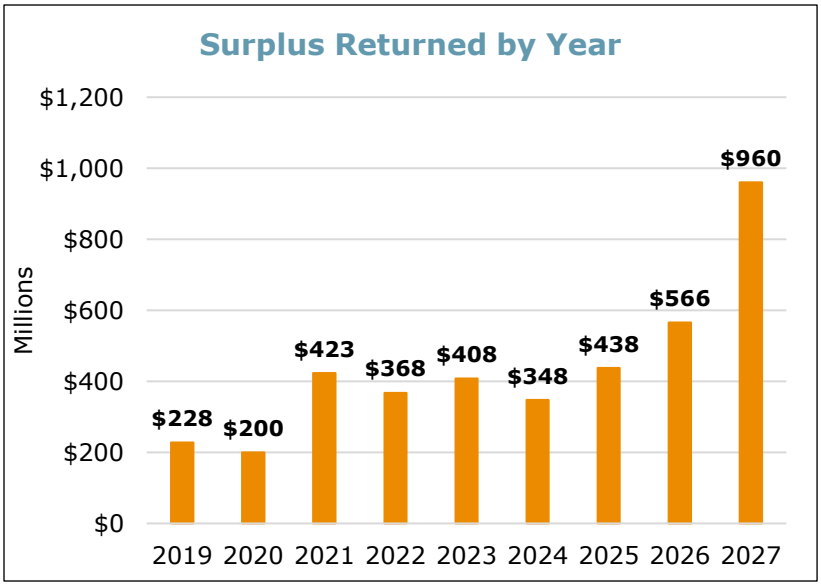
This financial approach is largely based on guidance from the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the federal regulatory body responsible for regulating and supervising various financial institutions, including insurance companies.

WorkSafeBC continued to be in a financially strong position at the end of 2025, as the funding level was 139 per cent, and the surplus totalled $1.7 billion. However, last year marked the fourth consecutive planned annual decline in the funding level, from a peak of 155 per cent in 2021.

Surplus funds and premium rates

Higher-than-required investment returns have contributed to WorkSafeBC's strong financial position.

The surplus has allowed WorkSafeBC to keep the average base rate for employers below the cost to run the workers' compensation system.



The preliminary 2027 average base rate of $1.55 per $100 of assessable payroll will be 18 per cent less than the expected cost rate of $1.88, with the difference funded by the surplus.

In 2027, WorkSafeBC will be returning almost $1 billion ($960 million) of surplus funds to employers through discounted rates and assessment credits.

Between 2019 and 2027, WorkSafeBC estimates that $3.9 billion of surplus funds will have been returned to B.C. employers, primarily by pricing base rates below system costs.

For more information:

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[1] For purposes of setting premium rates and the required funding level, WorkSafeBC uses a funding basis of accounting. This funding basis reduces the volatility in financial results and enables WorkSafeBC to maintain rate stability for employer premium rates.