

# How are 2026 industry premium rates set?



The Saskatchewan WCB sets industry premium rates annually. The rate setting process ensures today's employers pay for the costs of today's claims.

## Step 1: Industry classification

- Employers are grouped into industry rate codes based on their primary business activity.
- This forms the WCB's classification system, which has 50 industry rate codes.
- The collective experience of all employers in each industry rate code determines the industry premium rate.
- All employers in the same rate code start with the same industry premium rate.

## Step 2: Industry premium rates

- An actuarial rate model is used to determine annual industry premium rates.
- Expected claim costs are projected for the upcoming year.
- Industry premium rate = costs/payroll.
- Premiums cover all current and future costs for claims that occur during the year.

## Step 3: Experience rating

- The experience rating program adjusts the industry premium rate based on an employer's individual claims experience.
- Employers can receive a discount or pay a surcharge depending on their claims experience.
- Reducing the number and cost of claims through injury prevention and workplace safety can improve your experience rating and reduce the WCB premiums you pay.

**Online services reminder:** in early December 2025, you will be able to view your 2026 industry rate, including your experience rating, through your WCB online account only. Sign up for your WCB online account by visiting [wcb.sask.com](https://www.wcb.sask.ca/wcb-sask.com).

## D52 – Seismic Drilling

### Comparing your 2025 and 2026 rates

Rate components	2025 rate	2026 rate	Percentage change
<b>Claim costs</b>	<b>\$1.237</b>	<b>\$1.232</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Short-term disability and vocational rehabilitation	\$0.548	\$0.558	1.8%
Medical costs	\$0.488	\$0.481	-1.4%
Long-term disability	\$0.150	\$0.151	0.7%
Fatality and survivor benefits	\$0.051	\$0.042	-17.6%
<b>Administration costs</b>	<b>\$0.452</b>	<b>\$0.451</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
WCB administration expenses	\$0.389	\$0.390	0.3%
WorkSafe Saskatchewan	\$0.011	\$0.010	-9.1%
Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Injured Worker Appeal Services (IWAS)	\$0.052	\$0.051	-1.9%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1.689</b>	<b>\$1.683</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Safety association funding	\$0.077	\$0.085	10.4%
<b>Model calculated rate (rounded)</b>	<b>\$1.77</b>	<b>\$1.77</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Additional rate reduction	N/A	(\$0.07)	N/A
<b>Total rate (rounded)</b>	<b>\$1.77</b>	<b>\$1.70</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>

### Updated payroll forecasts

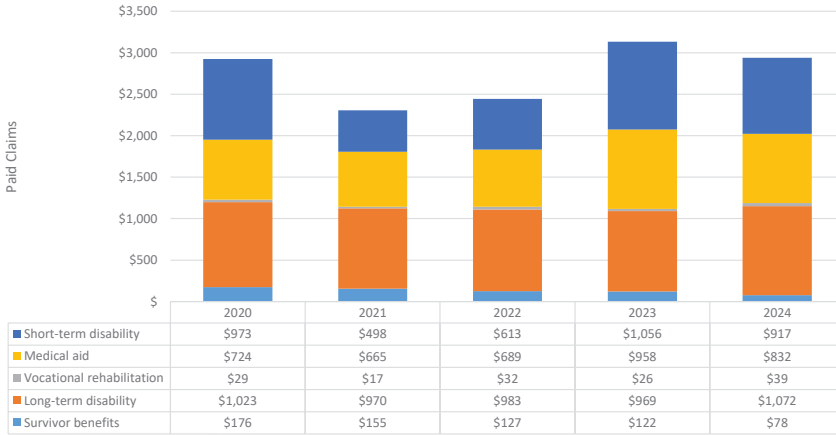
Assessable payroll (\$ millions)	Used in 2025 rate setting	Updated 2025 projection	2026 projection
D52 rate code payroll	\$113.36	\$111.96	\$113.64

The net zero change to the model premium rate for D52 is the result of increasing payroll forecasted for 2026, which is fully offset by increasing claims and related administration costs. The largest change in claims in dollar terms is related to short-term disability and vocational rehabilitation costs. Recognizing the WCB's strong funded position, the D52 premium rate has been reduced by an additional seven cents for 2026.



# At a glance: D52 – Seismic Drilling

## D52 Claim costs (thousands of dollars)



Injuries can happen at any age in D52

**33.0** average age at injury

**60.1** per cent of injuries under age 35

## Top five causes of serious injuries in

D52: 2020-2024

1. caught in/compressed by equipment/object, n.e.c.
2. struck by swinging or slipping object, n.e.c.
3. fall to floor,walkway or other surface
4. bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting
5. overexertion in pulling or pushing objects

## Did you know?

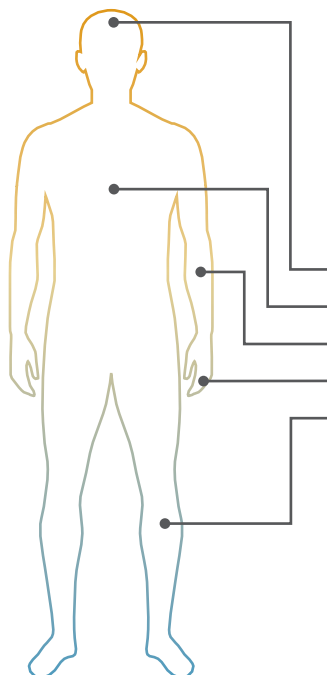
Claim costs directly affect your premium rate. **Injury prevention is the best way to minimize your costs and reduce human suffering.**

For information on how to prevent injuries, visit [worksafesask.ca](https://worksafesask.ca).



## Top five parts of the body injured in

D52: 2020-2024



Part of body	Number of injuries	Percentage of injuries
Head	15	6.1%
Back	19	7.7%
Arm	26	10.5%
Hand	72	29.0%
Leg	57	23.0%

## More info

Visit [wcb.sask.ca/statistics](https://wcb.sask.ca/statistics) for additional industry statistics, such as injury rates, or the average cost or duration per claim.



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