

Comp cost declines from 2004 to 2008

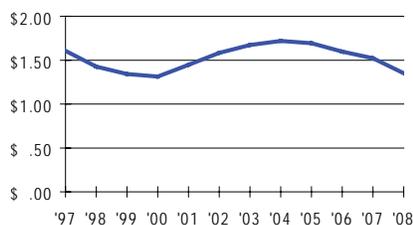
By David Berry, Policy Development, Research and Statistics

After peaking in 2004, Minnesota's workers' compensation costs declined from 2004 to 2008.

The overall cost of the system came to \$1.35 per \$100 of payroll in 2008, down from \$1.72 in 2004 (revised). The 2008 figure is slightly above the low-point of \$1.31 in 2000.

The figures reflect premiums paid by insured employers plus an estimate of costs for self-insured employers.

Workers' compensation system cost per \$100 of payroll, 1997-2008 [1]



	Cost per \$100 of payroll
1997	\$1.61
2000	1.31
2004	1.72
2005	1.69
2006 [2]	1.60
2007 [2]	1.52
2008 [2]	1.35

1. Data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association, Inc., Minnesota Assigned Risk Plan, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, and Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Includes insured and self-insured employers.
2. Subject to revision.

Interpreter workshop materials online

By Francisco J. Gonzalez, Dispute Resolution Specialist

In October, nearly 60 insurance industry representatives, attorneys, qualified rehabilitation consultants and Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) staff members attended the department's half-day workshop "Working with interpreters: a multicultural experience."



Hosted by DLI Benefit Management and Resolution's Alternative Dispute Resolution section, the workshop provided best practices information for interactions with interpreters and limited-English-speaking stakeholders in the workers' compensation system. Guest presenters and panelists included professional interpreters, members of the Hmong and Somali communities, attorneys and diversity educators.

Visit the DLI Web site at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/InterpWorkshop.asp for workshop handouts and presentations. The department may repeat the workshop in the future; information about all workers' compensation events is online at www.dli.mn.gov/EventsWC.asp.

Survey results: Stakeholders tell it like it is

The results of a survey recently conducted by the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) are online at www.dli.mn.gov/WC/Xls/2009survey.xls.

The survey questions were general and were intended to apply to a variety of workers' compensation stakeholders, concerning their interactions with the agency.

Future surveys will ask about auditing, alternative dispute-resolution, insurance verification and reimbursement.

Ideas about other areas of the workers' compensation system to survey can be directed to Karlene Malz at karlene.malz@state.mn.us.

