



---

**24 September, 2015**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2016 Average and Detailed Workers-Compensation Assessment Rates**

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board (YWCHSB) announced today the average assessment rate for 2016 along with the rate for each of the industry groups. The Yukon Chamber of Commerce (YCC) is pleased to learn that the average assessment rate for employers has once again, and for the seventh year in a row, dropped from the previous year's rate.

The average rate for 2016 will be \$1.85 per \$100 of payroll, a decrease of almost 5.6%. This is down from a corresponding rate of \$1.96 in 2015. To put this in perspective, the rate in 2009 was \$3.00.

Several factors led to this decrease:

- The lost-time injury rate per 100 covered workers fell from 2.4 in 2009 to 2.0 in 2014
- The number of lost-time claims fell from 473 to 435 in that same time frame.
- Strong investment-fund market returns since 2009.
- The subsidy that lowers rates is \$5.2mm in 2016 versus \$3.9mm in 2015.

The Yukon Chamber believes it is important for employers to understand that YWCHSB has enjoyed excellent returns on its investments and this in turn has both resulted in a large surplus, and allowed the YWCHSB to subsidize the average rates paid by employers over the last several years by about \$0.50 per \$100 of payroll. This significant subsidy on all rates has been part of efforts by the YWCHSB to reduce its growing surplus. Without these subsidies funded by surplus funds, employers would have paid higher assessments over the past several years. For example, to cover actual claims costs and administration without that subsidy, the average rate in 2016 would need to be about \$2.31 per \$100 of payroll, or about \$0.46 more than it is.

These are all average rates; the actual rates to be paid next year in each rate group decrease anywhere from 2% to 15.7 %.

The Chamber is troubled by the number of deaths last year. Five workers were killed on the job.

YCC Board Chair Rich Thompson said, "This underlines once again the importance of safe and healthy workplaces. All Yukon workers deserve to be safe at work. The added benefit is

Yukon Chamber of Commerce  
Suite 205-2237 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 0K7



Tel: (867) 667-2000  
office@yukonchamber.com  
**www.yukonchamber.com**

---

that safe workplaces make workers-compensation assessment rates go down. Decreased costs to employers make it easier for businesses to invest resources in ways that grow the economy and create wealth.”

YCC President Peter Turner pointed out, “Employers cannot count on good rates of return on YWCHSB’s investments to keep assessment rates low, but we can all contribute to reduced injury rates and claims costs by ensuring safe workplaces.”

The Chamber encourages all employers, managers, supervisors and workers to work together to ensure everyone is safe at work.

- 30 -

Rich Thompson  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
Yukon Chamber of Commerce  
(403) 660-0073

Peter M. Turner  
President  
Yukon Chamber of Commerce  
667-6060