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Highlights from the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses 1996

Maine Department of Labor

Maine Bureau of Labor Standards

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Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, 1996

The following data represent highlights from the annual survey of occupational injuries and illnesses contained in the publication Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in Maine, 1996.

Maine's private sector employers experienced a record low injury and illness incidence rate in 1996. Cases occurred at a rate of 9.4 per 100 full-time workers.

Over the past several years, an interesting pattern has emerged in the recorded severity of injuries and illnesses. The incidence rate for the more severe cases (those with days away from work) declined 58% since 1988. However, the incidence rate for the less severe cases that resulted in restricted work activity increased 64%. This result indicates a shift in the way employers treat cases once they occur. Return-to-work programs, which have become more popular, may have contributed to this shift.

Incidence rates can vary from industry to industry. Manufacturing, Construction, and Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing have consistently higher incidence rates than other industries due to the inherent dangers that exist within these industries. On the other hand, industries such as Finance, Insurance & Real Estate have relatively low incidence rates due to the low risk nature of the work.