

COSTS

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Work Injury Costs

Work Injury Costs and Time Lost

National Safety Council (NSC) cost estimates represent income not received or expenses incurred because of fatal and nonfatal preventable injuries. These cost estimates are a measure of the economic impact of preventable injuries and may be compared to other economic measures, such as gross domestic product, per capita income, and personal consumption expenditures. The costs reflect the impact to society, not specifically to employers.

Work Injury Costs - 2023

COST

- total in 2023 ---- **\$176.5 billion**
- per worker ----- **\$1,080**
- per death ----- **\$1,460,000**
- per medically consulted injury ---- **\$43,000**



The true cost to the nation, employers, and individuals of work-related deaths and injuries is much greater than the cost of workers' compensation insurance alone. The figures above show National Safety Council estimates of the total economic costs of work-related deaths and injuries.

The total cost of work injuries in 2023 was \$176.5 billion. This figure includes **wage and productivity losses** of \$53.1 billion, **medical expenses** of \$36.8 billion, and **administrative expenses** of \$59.5 billion. This total also includes **employers' uninsured costs** of \$15.7 billion, including the value of time lost by workers other than those with disabling injuries who are directly or indirectly involved in injuries, and the cost of time required to investigate injuries, write up injury reports, and other administrative functions. The total also includes damage to motor vehicles in work-related injuries of \$5.9 billion and **fire losses** of \$5.6 billion.

The cost per worker in 2023 was \$1,080. This includes the value of goods or services each worker must produce to offset the cost of work injuries. It is *not* the average cost of a work-related injury.

Cost per **medically consulted injury** in 2023 was \$43,000, while the cost per death was \$1,460,000. These figures include estimates of wage losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, and employer costs, but exclude property damage costs except to motor vehicles.

Time Lost Due to Work-Related Injuries - 2023

DAYS LOST

- total in 2023 ----- **103,000,000**
- due to injuries in 2023 ----- **70,000,000**
- due to injuries in prior years ----- **33,000,000**
- in future years from 2023 injuries --- **55,000,000**



Days lost estimates do not include time lost by people with nondisabling injuries or other people directly or indirectly involved in the incidents.

Time Lost Due to Work-Related Injuries

The 103,000,000 days lost in 2023 are a result of injuries that occurred in 2023 and days lost in 2023 from injuries that occurred in previous years.

Days lost due to injuries in 2023 totaled 70,000,000. This estimate includes the actual time lost during the year from disabling injuries, but excludes time lost on the day of the injury, time required for further medical treatment, or check-ups following the injured person's return to work.

Fatalities are included at an average loss of 150 days per case, and permanent impairments are included as actual days lost plus an allowance for lost efficiency resulting from the impairment.

An additional 33,000,000 days were lost in 2023 due to permanently disabling injuries that occurred in prior years.

NSC estimates 55,000,000 additional days will be lost in future years due to on-the-job deaths and permanently disabling injuries that occurred in 2023.

Source: All costs and time lost figures are NSC estimates, please see the technical appendix for more information.