

Computing Incident Rates, Severity Rates and DART

Every owner or Safety Manager should understand how to compute accident incidence rates and severity rates, (known as DART by OSHA), to help analyze and correct conditions that cause accidents. A simple formula for calculating accident incidence (frequency) is to:

1. Take the total number of recordable incidents for the year from your OSHA 300.
2. Multiply that number by 200,000, which represents the number of hours worked by 100 full-time employees, 40 hours per week for 50 weeks per year. (OSHA requires accident rates to be calculated as incidents per 100 full-time employees.)
3. Calculate the total hours worked by all employees for the year and divide that number into the total for the first two steps.

In other words: $\frac{\text{Number of recordable injuries or illnesses} \times 200,000}{\text{Number of Hours worked by all employees during the calendar year}} = \text{Incident Rate}$

Some employers like to calculate monthly or quarterly incident rates as well, and this can easily be done by using incident and hours-worked figures for only the particular month or quarter.

A severity rate can be calculated by substituting the number of lost workdays for the number of recordable injuries or illnesses.

OSHA also uses a "Days Away Restricted & Transferred" (DART) rate based on injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer for every 100 full-time workers (referred to as the DART rate). A "Days Away from Work Injury and Illness" (DAFWII) rate is also used to select companies for on-site inspections, called "Targeted Inspections."

Recordable injuries are those which result in death, loss of consciousness, limitation on the work or motions the worker can perform, transfer to other work, or medical treatment beyond first aid. The most detailed information about recordable injuries is found in an OSHA publication, "The OSHA Recordkeeping Handbook", available for download at OSHA.gov, under the "Recordkeeping" tab.

If you would like to compare your rates to those of others in LBM industry, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) annually publishes the key safety statistics for each major segment of manufacturing, construction, and service industries and makes these available to the public.

Also, detailed statistics on occupational accidents and illnesses, updated annually, can be found on the OSHA website at www.osha.gov (click on Statistics under Data & Statistics).

In some cases, you may need the NAICS code (North American Industry Classification System) or the SIC (Standard Industrial Code) for our industry. Our industry SIC code is 52 and the NAICS is 444. Additional NAICS codes may be found by asking your company accountant or by visiting the U.S. Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov (click on NAICS under Business & Industry at the bottom of the page).