

Workers' Compensation Premium Estimator for preliminary 2017 rates

The attached excel spreadsheet is a tool to help fire districts estimate their workers' compensation premium costs in 2017. It includes the preliminary experience factor for each fire district. After entering estimated hours for the upcoming year, the spreadsheet will calculate total premiums, showing the employee and employer portion.

Please note that these rates are preliminary. The public is invited to comment on L&I's proposed rates at public hearings around the state in October. The final rate decision will be announced by early December. Complete information is online at www.Lni.wa.gov/Rates.

How do I use this tool to estimate my premiums for 2017?

Step 1:

Look-up your organization's experience factor in the tab labeled "Prelim 2017 Exp Factors"

Account Id	Doing Business As Name	2016 Experience Factor
634700	WHATCOM CO FIRE DIST #14	0.9000
691100	SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION	0.9000
933200	FIRE PROTECTION DIST #1 ASOTIN	0.8800
1134300	FIRE DIST NO 10 GRANT COUNTY	0.8400
1483200	ADAMS CO FIRE DIS #5	0.8200
1803600	TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR	2.2443
2049100	COWLITZ COUNTY FIRE DIST #1	0.9000
2336300	SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTI	0.9000
2465501	NORTH WHATCOM FIRE & RESCUE	0.9416
2492500	GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 13	0.9000
3176400	WALLA WALLA COUNTRY FIRE PROTE	0.9000
4721000	PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION	0.6000
4747700	CLARK COUNTY FIRE PROT DIST 13	0.7800
5725900	CLARK COUNTY FIRE DIST 10	0.8083
5784900	GRANT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4	0.9000
6181600	OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DIST #6	0.7800
6456800	SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DIST #19	0.8900
11501100	SEATAC EXPLODED POST #24	0.0000

Step 2:

Enter you organization's preliminary 2017 experience factor in the green cell in the top left-hand corner of the tab labeled "Premium Estimator"

Workers Compensation Premium Estimator		Preliminary Base Rates				Total		
Experience Factor	Estimated Hours	Accident Fund	Medical Aid Fund	SAW	Supplemental Pension Fund	Estimated Premiums	Employee Portion	Employer Portion
1.168								
6904	Firefighters - Counties/Tax Dist	0.0281	0.0004	0.0212	0.0952			
5306	Admin/Clerical Office - Counties/Tax Dist	0.0601	0.0009	0.0446	0.0952			
1501	County/Tax Dist NOC Othr Empls	0.9933	0.0147	0.5112	0.0952			
6901	Volunteers - Excl Law Enf Officers	-	-	0.0724	-			
4904	Clerical Office NOC & Draftsmn	0.0281	0.0004	0.0212	0.0952			
4910	Property & Building Management	0.6322	0.0093	0.3869	0.0952			
5301	Word Proc/Secr Svc Incl Cl/Sls	0.0481	0.0007	0.0315	0.0952			
6804	Airport Operations-Grnd Crew	0.4082	0.0059	0.3066	0.0952			
7203	Community Service Workers	0.1393	0.0019	0.1765	0.0952			
						\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Step 3:

Enter the estimated hours for 2017 in the orange cells for each risk classification that your organization has. Note: most fire districts will only have employees in risk classifications 6904 (Firefighters) and 5306 (Admin/Clerical Office).

	A	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1	Workers Compensation Premium Estimator										
2	Preliminary 2017 Rates										
3											
4	1.168	Experience Factor	Preliminary Base Rates				Total				
5			Estimated Hours	Accident Fund	Medical Aid Fund	SAW	Supplemental Pension Fund	Estimated Premiums	Employee Portion	Employer Portion	
6	6904	Firefighters - Counties/Tax Dist	44,000	0.0281	0.0004	0.0212	0.0952	\$6,742.98	\$5,298.87	\$1,444.12	
7	5306	Admin/Clerical Office - Counties/Tax Dist	3,400	0.0601	0.0009	0.0446	0.0952	\$ 743.04	\$ 504.37	\$ 238.67	
8	1501	County/Tax Dist NOC Othr Empls		0.9933	0.0147	0.5112	0.0952				
9	6901	Volunteers - Excl Law Enf Offcers		-	-	0.0724	-				
10	4904	Clerical Office NOC & Draftsmn		0.0281	0.0004	0.0212	0.0952				
11	4910	Property & Building Management		0.6322	0.0093	0.3869	0.0952				
12	5301	Word Proc/Secr Svc Incl Cl/Sls		0.0481	0.0007	0.0315	0.0952				
13	6804	Airport Operations-Grnd Crew		0.4082	0.0059	0.3066	0.0952				
14	7203	Community Service Workers		0.1393	0.0019	0.1765	0.0952				
15			-					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Frequently Asked Questions about Workers Compensation Premiums

How are premiums calculated for an individual employer?

For each risk class assigned to an employer their quarterly premium is calculated as:

$$\text{Hours} \times \left(\left[\frac{\text{Firm's Experience Factor}}{\text{Experience Factor}} \times \left(\text{Accident base rate}^* + \text{Medical Aid base rate}^* + \text{Stay at Work base rate}^* \right) \right] + \text{Supplemental Pension Fund rate}^* \right)$$

**The base rates are unique to the employer's assigned risk classification*

Note: the experience factor is not applied to the Supplemental Pension Fund Base Rate.

How often are the base rates and experience factors calculated?

The classification base rates and individual firm experience factors are updated annually, and the new rates and factors effective on January 1.

How are experience factors calculated?

L&I calculates the experience factor by comparing a firm's workers' compensation claim costs to the average costs of other firms with the same risk classification. If a firm is expected to have lower claims costs than the average employer in its class, then their experience factor will be less than 1.0.

Which years of losses are used to calculate the experience factor?

The experience period is the three fiscal years ending 18 months before the rating year. For example, the 2017 experience factors were based on claims costs between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2015.

How are base rates for each risk classification calculated?

The base rates are calculated separately for the Accident Fund, Medical Aid Fund, and Stay at Work program in each risk classification. These base rates reflect the estimated cost of providing insurance for work in that risk classification.

The Supplemental Pension Fund hourly rate is the same for all classes rated per hour worked and is not related to the risk in the class. By statute the Supplemental Pension Fund is allowed to collect only enough premium to make the current COLA payments for new and past claims.

Which years of losses are used to calculate the base rates?

Base rates are calculated using claim costs and reported hours from the five fiscal years ending 18 months before the rating year. For example, the 2017 base rates were based on claim costs between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2015