

BACKGROUNDER
YOUNG WORKER WORKPLACE SAFETY

June 2008

Overview

- 899 workers under 25 had time-loss workplace injuries in 2007.
- Overall, in 2007, 4,410 workers under 25 reported workplace injuries.
- In 2007, 610 of those time-loss injuries occurred in four industries: Retail, Accommodations Food and Beverage, Construction, and Manufacturing. The breakdown of time-loss injury by industry group is below.
- As of Thursday June 26, there had been 321 time-loss injuries to workers under 25 in 2008

Major Ind. Group	# Claims
RETAIL TRADE	190
ACCOMODATION/FOOD/BEVERAGES	163
MANUFACTURING	144
CONSTRUCTION	113
WHOLESALE TRADE	66
HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES	46
OTHER SERVICES	41
TRANSPORTATION/STORAGE	36
BUSINESS SERVICES	25
COMMUNICATION/UTILITIES	15
GOVERNMENT SERVICES	14
FISHING/TRAPPING	13
AGRICULTURE/RELATED SERVICES	9
LOGGING/FORESTRY	7
MINING/QUARRIES/OIL WELLS	7
REAL ESTATE/INSURANCE AGENTS	7
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3
Total	899

Young Worker Injury: A Closer Look

Overall, fingers are the most injured body part. Among claims reported (which includes both time-loss and non time-loss, fingers are the most frequently injured body part:

CLAIMS REPORTED 2007 – AGE UNDER 25

Body Part.	# Claims
Finger(s)	874
Back	659
Face	416
Hand(s)	403
Leg(s)	275
Arm(s)	258
Multiple body parts	236
Shoulder	207
Wrist(s)	180
Ankle(s)	146

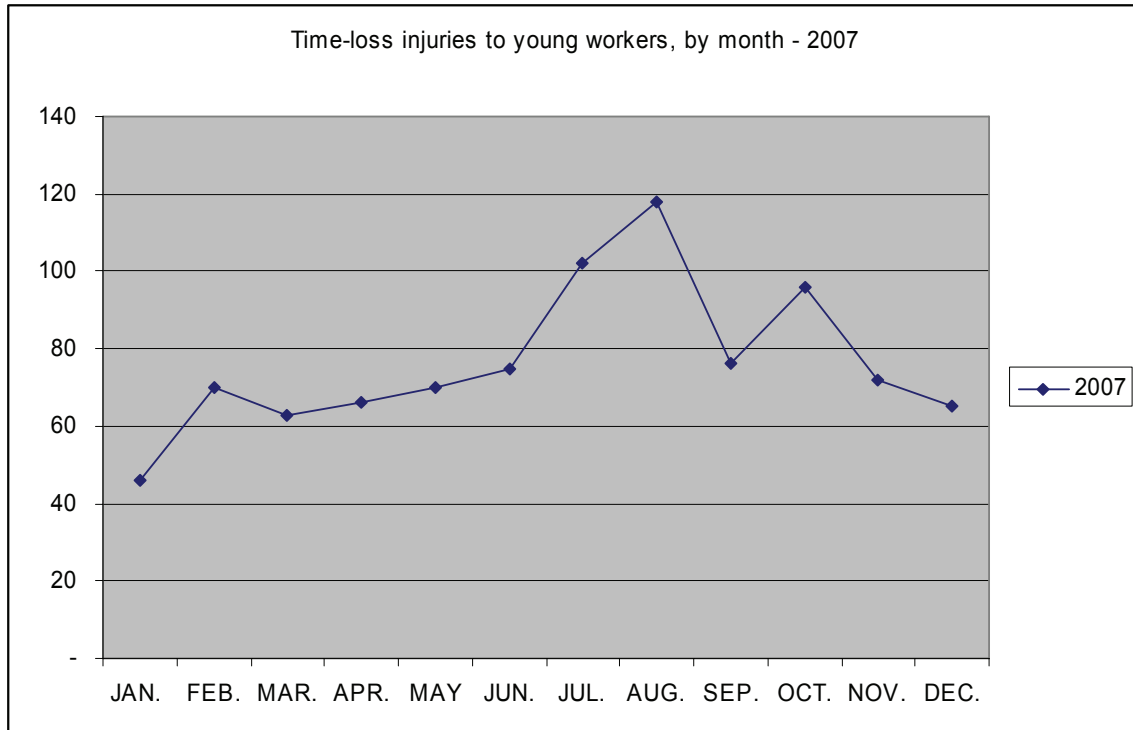
However, among time-loss injury, the back remains the most likely body part to be injured seriously enough to cause time loss from work. This is consistent with the general population of all injuries. In general, more than half of all time-loss injury in Nova Scotia is the result of musculoskeletal injury, commonly called sprains and strains.

TIME-LOSS INJURY – AGE UNDER 25

Body Part	# Claims
Back	231
Finger(s)	139
Hand(s)	64
Leg(s)	57
Multiple body parts	51
Shoulder	51
Wrist(s)	48
Arm(s)	44
Ankle(s)	39
Multiple upper extremities locations	27

Seasonal timeliness

- Injuries in general peak during summer months. This peak is particularly pointed for young workers.
- About 400 time-loss claims in 2007 occurred in May through August the summer – nearly half of all young worker time-loss injuries
- July and August report the highest claims among young workers, as students venture out into summer jobs.



Saint Mary's University Research Report – January 2008

- Research commissioned by the WCB, conducted by Saint Mary's University, indicates that young workers simply do not consider safety in their world view. This is not exactly that they feel invincible – it's just not on their radar screen.
- More particularly, injury is perceived by young people as simply part of the job. Their own personal safety, generally, is not considered, in an aim to please their supervisors. Safety is perceived as a matter of personal choice, not a systemic or corporate responsibility.
- The challenge is making safety relevant to young workers and engaging them in the discussion.
- The full report, entitled "***Speaking of Safety,***" is attached

Selected Injury Descriptions, Workers under 25, Time-loss Claims, 2008

<u>AGE</u>	<u>VERBATIM INJURY DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INDUSTRY</u>
20	WAS MAKING A DELIVERY AND WAS APPROACHED BY 2 MEN WITH MASKS. RAN INTO WOODS AND WAS INJURED.	ACCOMODATION/FOOD/BEVERAGES
16	EMPTYING FRYER, CORD GOT CAUGHT ON CONTAINER, SPILLED HOT FAT, BADLY BURNED FOOT	ACCOMODATION/FOOD/BEVERAGES
20	CHASING AN ESCAPED MINK SLIPPED ON WOOD CHIPS	AGRICULTURE/RELATED SERVICES
19	FRONT END LOADER CAME DOWN ON TOP OF FOOT	AGRICULTURE/RELATED SERVICES
22	WAS A PASSENGER IN A VEHICLE THE DRIVER HIT THE SHOULDER OF THE ROAD LOST CONTROL AND OVER TURNED	BUSINESS SERVICES
24	EMPTYING COMPOST CART, CART FELL OFF CART DUMPER, STRUCK WORKER, KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS	COMMUNICATION/UTILITIES
22	LADDER SLIPPED WHILE WKR WAS ON IT. FELL APX 13 FEET.	CONSTRUCTION
24	NAILING WOOD FRAMING. GUN SLIPPED OUT OF POSITION AND DISCHARGED INTO FINGER.	CONSTRUCTION
24	FOOT WAS STUCK IN MUD AND WHEN RELEASED FELL ONTO EMBANKMENT STRIKING PIECE OF WOOD	CONSTRUCTION
19	RAKING LAWNS FOR SPRING CLEAN-UP, ELBOW WORSENERD OVER NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS	CONSTRUCTION
23	ROPE CAME OFF HAULER AND STRUCK IN FACE	FISHING/TRAPPING
23	JUMPED FROM FEED BARGE TO BOAT, TURNED LT FOOT	FISHING/TRAPPING
16	WENT BEHIND FORKLIFT, FORKLIFT KNOCKED WKR DOWN, RAN OVER LEFT LEG AND BROKE ANKLE AND LEG BONES	FISHING/TRAPPING
23	WHILE CLEANING CONVEYOR BELT WKR'S CLOTHING CAUGHT IN SAME, DRAGGING WKR CAUSING LACERATION TO FACE/NECK	FISHING/TRAPPING
22	PIECE OF METAL STRUCK TOP OF HEAD WHEN GOING OUT BASEMENT DOOR, METAL PIECE WAS LOOSE ABOVE DOOR	HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES
20	DURING CRISIS WITH CLIENT, LT SHOULDER WAS INJURED FROM STRUGGLE TO RESTRAIN CLIENT	HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES
24	SMELLED UNKNOWN FUMES AT WORK, DISORIENTED, UNABLE TO FORM PROPER SENTENCES	HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES
24	BENT OVER TO LIFT UP PILLOW ON RESIDENTS BED, WENT TO STRAIGHTEN UP FELT PAIN ACROSS MIDDLE BACK	HEALTH/SOCIAL SERVICES
23	POWER SAW CUT LEG WHILE CUTTING TREE LIMB - BRANCH AND TREE SHIFTED, PUSHING SAW AGAINST LEG	LOGGING/FORESTRY
23	PINCHED FINGER BETWEEN SHAFT AND CUP WHILE LOADING A ROLL OF FILM	MANUFACTURING
22	FORCEFULLY EXTENDING RT ELBOW, HEARD POP & SUDDEN ONSET OF PAIN WHILE BREAKING DOWN TURKEYS	MANUFACTURING
22	BENT OVER TO PICK UP PAIL OF BLUEBERRIES, TWISTED TOO FAR CAUSING DISCOMFORT TO LT SIDE RIB AREA	MANUFACTURING
21	EXPOSED TO NUMEROUS CHEMICALS AT WORK, INHALED SEVERAL SUBSTANCES	OTHER SERVICES
23	WHILE TRYING TO KENNEL A CAT, CAT ATTACKED HAND, REC'D MANY BITES AND SCRATCHES	OTHER SERVICES
23	MOVING A COMPANY CAR AND WAS T BONED BY A DRIVER RUNNING A STOP SIGN	OTHER SERVICES

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WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

23	WHILE TURNING OVER A BOX TO SEE PRICE,BOX OPENED AND MIRROR FELL OUT AND STRUCK FOOT	RETAIL TRADE
21	SMOKE INHALATION FROM EXPLOSION AT WORK,BURN TO LT BABY FINGER	RETAIL TRADE
23	FROM SCANNING PRODUCT IN A CONTINOUS RT TO LT MOTION, RT SHOULDER AND NECK BECAME AGITATED	RETAIL TRADE
23	MOVING ATV TRAILERS ON A PALLET. TOP TRAILER SLIP OFF STACK AND CAUGHT HIM IN THE MOUTH	RETAIL TRADE
21	AMPUTATED FINGER TIP ON HAMBURGER MACHINE	RETAIL TRADE
20	WHILE STANDING ON STEPSTOOL, STOOL TIPPED CAUSING WKR TO FALL TWISTING BACK AND RT KNEE.	RETAIL TRADE
21	WHILE PULLING A CART,TRIPPED OVER A CARPET,FELL ON THUMB	WHOLESALE TRADE
23	HAMMER HEAD CAME OFF WHILE SWINGING, STRIKING WKR ON BACK OF HAND	WHOLESALE TRADE

What's the WCB doing?

- Young worker injury prevention marketing is an important part of the overall social marketing plan. Awareness-driven sites like notworthit.ca provide relevant information to young workers, their employers, and their parents. Ads are run in youth-focused publications and on university and college campuses.
- A contest at notworthit.ca allows young people to tell their stories of workplace safety. Visitors to the site vote on a workplace safety story, for monthly prize packages.
- Other outreach continues at the employer level, particularly focused in Retail, Food Beverage and Accommodations, Construction and Manufacturing
- Based in research indicating the value in face to face contact, teams of young people – “Street Teams” – canvass Nova Scotia events speaking to young workers about workplace safety. Thousands of young Nova Scotians are reached by these street teams every summer. The street teams are currently attending events across Nova Scotia.
- Education is a critical component of the WCB's ongoing campaign for social change. Over the 2007/2008 school year, some 10,000 students across Nova Scotia heard real-life stories of workplace injury, sponsored by the WCB and in cooperation with the NS Dept. of Education's community-based learning consultants at each of the eight regional school boards

