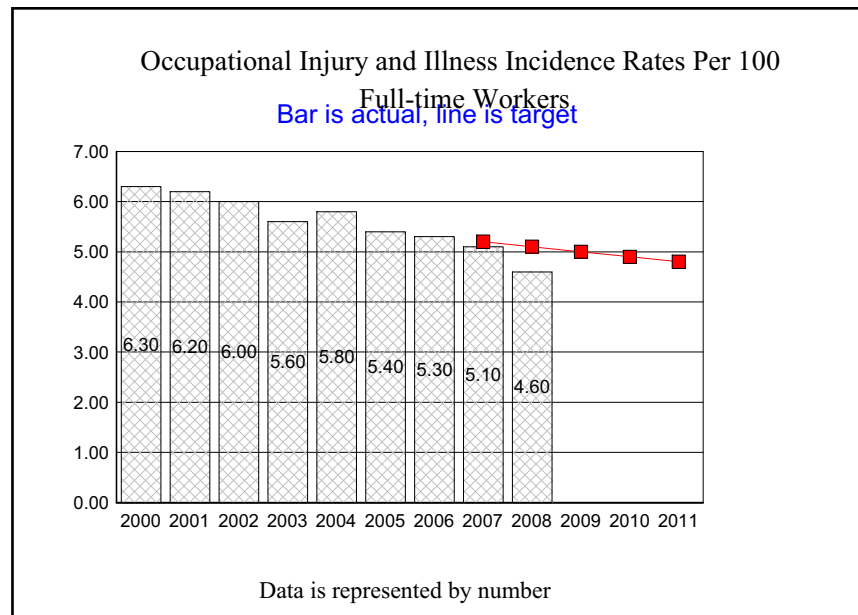


<b>KPM #13</b>	OCCUPATIONAL INJURY AND ILLNESS INCIDENCE RATES – Number of occupational injury and illness cases per 100 full-time workers.	2007
<b>Goal</b>	DCBS Goal # 1: Protect consumers and workers in Oregon.	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	Oregon Benchmark #9: Oregon's national rank in the cost of doing business.	
<b>Data Source</b>	Data are reported on an annual basis via an employer-based survey collected for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.	
<b>Owner</b>	Michael Wood, Administrator, Oregon OSHA, 503-947-7400	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

Advance workplace safety and health and reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by inspecting worksites for safety and health violations; investigating workplace fatalities, serious accidents, and complaints; providing training and consultation; and developing clear standards. This

measure reflects the highest level measure of workplace safety in Oregon.

## 2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Oregon OSHA has historically relied upon the overall occupational injury and illness rate for the private sector as one of the primary indicators of the programs performance. In addition, Oregon OSHA uses industry-specific accident and illness rates and other data to identify areas that deserve further attention. Targets are set to achieve a continuous reduction in the rate of workplace injuries and illnesses each year; a rate at or below the targeted level is desired for this measure. For 2010 and 2011, targets of 4.9 and 4.8, respectively, reflect our continued focus on making Oregon's workplaces safer and healthier and reducing the rate of workplace injuries and illnesses each year.

## 3. HOW WE ARE DOING

During 2008, Oregon's occupational injury and illness incidence rate was 4.6 per 100 full-time workers, which is better than our targeted value. Rates have dropped for the fourth consecutive year and have decreased by nearly 50 percent since 1995, indicating our continued success in partnering with employers to promote safer work environments in Oregon. The occupational injury and illness rate dropped significantly from 2007 to 2008; however, the national rate experienced a large drop as well (from 4.2 in 2007 to 3.9 in 2008), indicating a national downward trend. While the recent decrease indicates a strong performance, the 2008 numbers should be considered in the context of the overall trend over the past nine years. The overall trend is more significant and it indicates our continued success in promoting workplace safety - even in these economic conditions. As the economy recovers, Oregon OSHA will continue to work with employers and workers to ensure that risks are addressed and workplace safety continues to be a priority. However, history suggests that economic recovery is often accompanied by a short-term spike in injury rates as employees reenter the workforce or take on new roles, which could offset a portion of the decrease in injury rates seen in 2008.

## 4. HOW WE COMPARE

Monitoring Oregon's occupational injury and illness rate over time gives us valuable information on workplace safety and health trends. However, because each state has a different workforce composition (e.g. relative proportions of clerical staff to construction), results are not directly comparable across jurisdictions. We do monitor the nationwide occupational injury and illness incidence rate; the 2008 national rate was 3.9 and the 2007 rate was 4.2. Though Oregon's rate is higher than the national rate, over the past 20 years Oregon's rate has typically declined faster than the national rate - Oregon's rates have decreased 59 percent while national rates have decreased 55 percent.

## 5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

The injury and illness incidence rates are based on an annual sample of Oregon employers. While the survey sample is small (around 4,000 Oregon employers are sampled each survey year), it is consistent with sample sizes used for other states. The safety and health practices of Oregon employers and employees affect this measure. Economic factors, such as the relative number of new employees in the workforce or the availability of employer resources to invest in safety training and equipment, can also impact the injury and illness incidence rate.

## **6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE**

Oregon OSHA will continue its programs that enhance workplace safety and health. These efforts, combined with increased productivity among the staff, are expected to help continue to reduce the injury and illness rate.

## **7. ABOUT THE DATA**

Data is reported on a calendar year basis using results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national survey of occupational injuries and illnesses, conducted by the DCBS Information Management Division. The total-cases incidence rate is a measure of all recordable Oregon workplace injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers. Beginning with the 2002 BLS survey, incidence rates are based on revised requirements for recording occupational injuries and illnesses (revisions included minor changes in counting days of missed work as well as in classifying illnesses). Due to these revised requirements, the rates since the 2002 survey may not be strictly comparable with those of prior years.