



STATE OF NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

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Nebraska workers' compensation system maintains low insurance premium rates while meeting its obligations to injured employees

In the wake of a recent U.S. Department of Labor study that criticizes the effectiveness of the state-based workers' compensation system, Nebraska employers are reported to be paying relatively low workers' compensation insurance premium rates compared to other jurisdictions.

According to the *2016 Oregon Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Ranking Summary* (http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/dir/wc_cost/files/report_summary.pdf), Nebraska's index rate of 1.67 put it solidly in the lower half of the rankings — near the bottom third. Employers in the voluntary market of 30 other jurisdictions are paying higher workers' compensation premium rates than similar employers in Nebraska. This study, released in October by the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, ranked the workers' compensation insurance premium rates of 50 states and the District of Columbia. The study was based on classification rates from the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI).

This index rate is particularly noteworthy in light of the fact that Nebraska has been reported to maintain a high level of compliance in meeting its obligations to injured workers. According to a 2004 U.S. Department of Labor study, Nebraska meets 17 of the 19 essential recommendations of the 1972 Report of the National Commission on State Workmen's Compensation Laws. More information about the report and its recommendations can be found on WorkersCompResources.com, a website maintained by the chair of the commission, John F. Burton, Jr.

The Oregon summary was released on the heels of a new U.S. Department of Labor report, *Does the Workers' Compensation System Fulfill its Obligations to Injured Workers?* (<https://www.dol.gov/asp/WorkersCompensationSystem/WorkersCompensationSystemReport.pdf>). This report,

also released in October, calls for a new federal commission to review the effectiveness of the state-based workers' compensation system, based on the data of its 2004 study as well as data from 1980 and 1972 (see Appendix B of the report). The report also incorporated data analysis produced in 2015 by ProPublica, a public interest-oriented research organization (<https://www.propublica.org/series/workers-compensation>).

For more information regarding workers' compensation in Nebraska, please visit the court's website at <http://www.wcc.ne.gov>, or call the court's information line at 1-800-599-5155 or 402-471-6468.

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