

## Backgrounder

Agriculture work is dangerous. The province combines agriculture with forestry when compiling statistics. In 2017 (latest data), these industries had:

- The highest fatality rate
- The second-highest disabling injury rate
- The second-highest lost-time claim rate.

Source: Government of Alberta, “Workplace injuries, diseases & fatalities in Alberta, 2017,”  
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/workplace-injuries-diseases-fatalities-in-alberta-2017>

More than 70 per cent of agricultural fatalities in Canada were related to machinery between 1990 and 2008, according to Canadian Agriculture Injury Reporting. 46 per cent were caused by rollovers, runovers and entanglements.

Source: Canadian Agriculture Injury Reporting, “Agriculture Fatalities in Canada 1990 – 2008,”  
<https://www.cair-sbac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/CAIR-booklet-blue-ENFin.pdf>

Lost-time claims for agriculture workers through Workers’ Compensation Board coverage rose to 917 in 2018 from 793 the year before. 4,215 employers registered for Workers’ Compensation coverage in 2018.

Source: Edmonton Journal, “Injury Claims on farms rise again in 2018,” April 8, 2019,  
<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/injury-claims-on-farms-rise-again-in-2018>

According to the 2016 Census of Agriculture, there were 16,661 year round employees in Alberta (both full and part time). Another 16,837 were seasonal or temporary employees.

[https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd16594/\\$file/Ag\\_Census\\_2016.pdf?OpenElement](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd16594/$file/Ag_Census_2016.pdf?OpenElement)