

NORTHEAST

Precision Machine Shop News

MANAGER'S MEMO

Putting the clamp on workers compensation

Some employers feel like workers' compensation is a guaranteed payout system with very little benefit to them. It is for this reason that many employers are taking steps to manage workers' compensation costs before claims arise. This requires a focus on safety in the workplace and an increase in the visibility of workers' compensation policies and practices in the workplace. By understanding the context in which claims arise, policies can be implemented to take corrective action.

Avoid injury claims. The only way to do this is to create a safe working environment. Take the time to create clear written policies, have regular staff training and require internal site inspections.

Set safety objectives. Setting performance indicators around safety is a good way to ensure that they are consistently tracked and held accountable for.

Create incentives based on goal achievement to motivate staff. Make the incentive practical and within a certain dollar threshold. You don't want workers to let injuries or hazardous work stations grow into something that could cause greater injury, just to get the incentive.

Bring injured workers back to work sooner. Allow them to work from home or in activities that they are still able to perform.

Establish relationships with workers' comp health care providers. While workers can go to any doctor in case of an emergency, incidents that are not emergencies can be managed. Employers can send nonemergency injuries to their own providers. Providers that are familiar with work-related issues usually have a process in place to help speed recovery and get workers back on the job.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

CT Jobs Up 8,700 Over the Year

WETHERSFIELD, CT Following revised June numbers, which showed Connecticut gained 3,300 jobs last month, the state was down 300 jobs in July. Of the 10 major industry sectors, half showed gains while the other five reported losses. This brings the state's nonfarm employment to 1,623,100, which on a seasonally adjusted basis represents an increase of 8,700 jobs over the year when nonfarm employment totaled 1,614,400. The state's unemployment rate remained steady at 9.1 percent, which mirrors that of the national rate. The largest gain was in the manufacturing sector, up 2,100 jobs.

Overall, as the national and state economies recover, volatility in monthly numbers can be expected. Additionally, changes in methodology that culminated in March 2011 with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics assuming complete responsibility for estimating all states' monthly nonfarm job counts, have contributed to the month-to-month variability in the numbers

NY Economy Adds 14,100 Private Sector Jobs in July

New York State's economy gained 14,100 private sector jobs, or 0.2%, in July 2011, the State Labor Department reported today. Since the state's economic recovery began in November 2009, New York has recouped just over 57%, or 188,100, of the private sector jobs lost during the 2008-2009 recession.

The state's unemployment rate for July 2011 was 8.0%, unchanged from June 2011. The number of unemployed New Yorkers decreased over the month -- from 759,900 in June to 756,600 in July 2011.

The state's unemployment rate held steady at 8.0% over the month, remaining well below the nation's rate of 9.1%," said Bohdan M. Wynnyk, Chief of Labor Statistics, Division of Research and Statistics.

MA. Job rate hold steady for 2nd straight month

At 7.6 percent for two consecutive months, the Massachusetts unemployment remains well below the 9.2 percent national rate. Both the unemployment rate and the number of unemployed residents are the lowest since February of 2009

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