

# Economic Costs

## *Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries in the Construction Industry*

**\$13 Billion** total estimated annual cost

**\$7.8 Billion:** Injuries and illnesses

**\$5.2 Billion:** Deaths

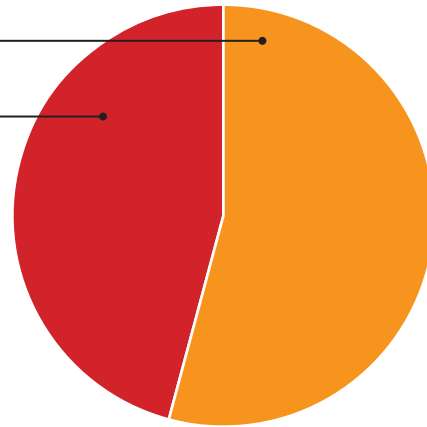
*(Of the \$13 billion, \$1.36 billion are medical costs.)*

*These estimates include:*

**Direct costs** *(medical, wage replacement)*

**Indirect costs** *(production/household losses)*

**Quality-of-life costs** *(pain and suffering)*



**NOTES:** Calculating an accurate estimate of costs is difficult because some costs like pain & suffering are extremely difficult to quantify. The \$13 billion does not include employer costs for workers' compensation.

## *Employer Costs for Workers' Compensation*

**4.9%** of total employer payroll expenses\*

**How high is that?**

**Twice** the costs for manufacturing

**Three** times the cost for all industries

**Yet workers' compensation paid only 46% of medical expenses for construction work-related injuries.**

\* Figures are for 2004-2007 and assume every wage-salary construction workers worked 2,000 hours per year.