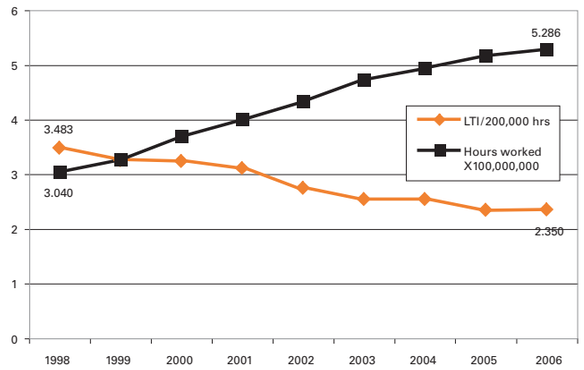
IMPROVEMENTS IN INJURY RATES IN CONSTRUCTION: 1998 – 2006

Construction Safety Association of Ontario

Between 1998 and 2006, Ontario's construction industry experienced huge growth while continuing to reduce the overall rate of lost-time injuries (LTIs). See Figure 1.

Figure 1
Insured Hours Worked and LTI rates 1998 – 2006



Three major types of accidents account for 95% of all LTIs in construction:

- overexertion/repetitive motion,
- struck-by/against objects, and
- falls.

The rate of improvement for each of these major types of accidents is shown below.

Overall LTI Rate	-32.5%
Overexertion/Repetitive Motion	-29.4%
Other Single Traumatic Event* Injuries	-32.3%
Falls	-41.3%

**These include struck-by/against objects, contact with objects, and caught in/on/between objects.*

The improvement in injury performance runs contrary to the conventional wisdom, which is that as employment increases the injury rate would also increase due to the number of "new" workers and "new" employers.

Figure 2
Percentage change in employment and LTI rates

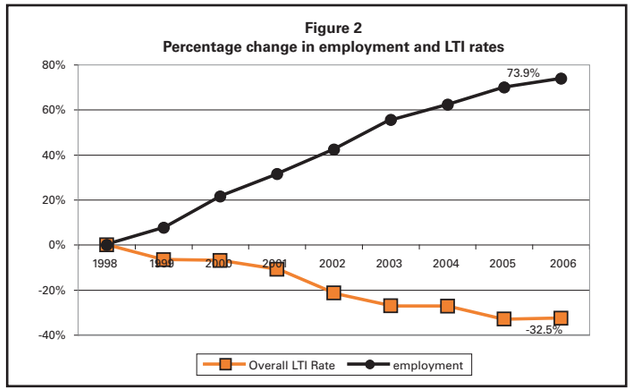
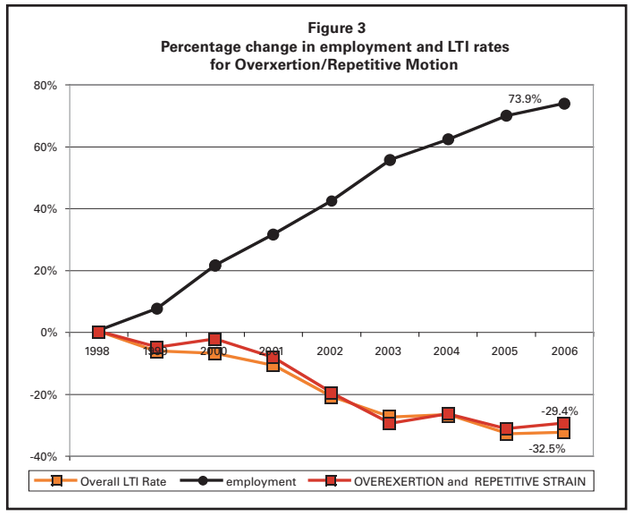


Figure 2 clearly shows that injury rates in Ontario's construction industry continued to experience long-term improvement despite unprecedented employment growth.

Figure 3
Percentage change in employment and LTI rates for Overxertion/Repetitive Motion



As shown in Figure 3, the change in the rate of overexertion/repetitive motion injuries was slightly lower than the overall rate. This may reflect the nature of those injuries, since they tend to be cumulative. They are often the result of exposure with different employers and are perceived as being among the most difficult to prevent.

Figure 4
Percentage change in employment and LTI rates for Falls

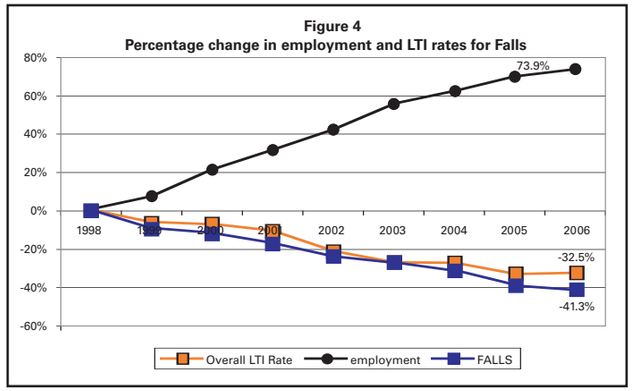


Figure 4 shows that the increased emphasis on fall prevention during this period appears to have had a positive impact on reducing the incidence of fall-related injuries.

Figure 5
Percentage change in employment and LTI rates for Other Single Traumatic Event

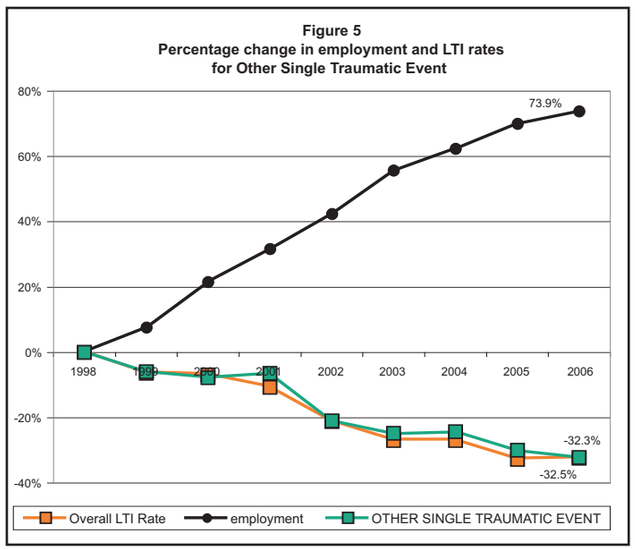


Figure 5 shows that the frequency of "Other Single Traumatic Event" injuries is closely following the overall injury trend.