



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**

June 2026

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Jason Swant, Manager  
Workers' Compensation Section

RE: Permanent Total Disability Benefit  
Cost of Living Increase

The cost-of-living adjustment is the percentage increase, if any, in the state's average weekly wage as adopted by the Department of Labor & Industry over the state's average weekly wage adopted for the previous year. Section 39-71-702(5), MCA, allows an adjustment of permanent total disability benefits (PTD) for the cost of living on post July 1, 1987, claims. The state's average weekly wage effective July 1, 2026, is \$1,192.00. The percentage increase from \$1,137.00 (last year's average weekly wage) to \$1,192.00 is **4.84%**.

**For dates of injury occurring on or after July 1, 1987 through March 25, 2003**, the cost of living adjustment is the percentage increase, if any, in the state's average weekly wage as adopted by the Department of Labor & Industry over the state's average weekly wage adopted for the previous year, or 3%, whichever is less, and claims of this vintage are limited to a maximum of *only 10* benefit adjustments. Therefore, **a rate of 3%** should be applied to the benefit amount of any worker who has received 104 weeks of permanent total disability benefits before July 1, 2026, on a post July 1, 1987, claim, subject to the 10-adjustment limit.

Please direct any questions to Jason Swant, Manager, Workers' Compensation Section, (406) 444-6451.