

# The Standard: Absent workers cost big bucks

Portland Business Journal by Andy Giegerich , Business Journal staff writer

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Replacement workers are up to 29 percent less efficient and can cost up to 44 percent more than regular workers who are absent from their jobs.

So says Portland-based Standard Insurance Co., which issued [a report on absence and disability management](#) programs on Wednesday. Employers' extra costs come from providing sick leave, salary continuation, short- and long-term disability and other leaves of absence.

The Standard published its report as part of a series on health-related lost productivity.

“Measuring the total cost associated with absence and disability has long been a challenge for employers, brokers and consultants,” said [Michael Klachefsky](#), a national workplace practices leader for The Standard, in a statement. “Recent research has shed light on the productivity and related profit loss that employers suffer when their experienced employees are absent.”

Andy Giegerich covers government, law, health care and sports business.