

Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services
Various characteristics of the workers' compensation system, calendar years 1968-2018

Calendar year	Employers ¹	Subject employees ²	Accepted disabling claims ³	Estimated accepted nondisabling claims ⁴	Estimated total accepted claims ⁵	Denied claims ⁶	Claim closures and resolutions ⁷	Fatality claims ⁸	Net PTDs ⁹	Administrative disputes ¹⁰	Hearing requests ¹¹	Board review requests ¹²	Court of Appeals requests ¹³	Claim disposition agreements ¹⁴	Return-to-work program use ¹⁵	Premium (millions) ¹⁶	Average weekly wage ¹⁷
1968	49,021	671,900	32,509	78,800	111,300	n/a	23,334	118	n/a	—	2,105	440	n/a	—	n/a	\$70.5	\$126.59
1969	52,191	700,800	35,372	82,300	117,700	n/a	27,583	131	96	—	2,365	492	n/a	—	n/a	82.4	134.47
1970	52,789	704,300	30,338	80,400	110,700	1,935	50,917	137	159	—	2,706	505	n/a	—	n/a	86.8	140.58
1971	58,768	732,500	30,663	82,200	112,900	1,709	26,710	132	217	—	2,936	562	n/a	—	n/a	107.4	148.82
1972	62,584	778,800	34,835	86,900	121,700	2,177	27,166	133	286	—	3,596	519	n/a	—	n/a	136.6	156.50
1973	65,788	820,600	36,802	92,300	129,100	2,408	31,704	144	285	—	4,244	504	n/a	—	n/a	149.0	166.34
1974	60,638	841,100	34,214	98,100	132,300	2,647	33,952	123	254	—	4,710	718	n/a	—	n/a	196.9	180.17
1975	60,650	840,100	32,172	89,400	121,600	2,699	35,256	132	299	—	5,588	756	n/a	—	n/a	221.2	195.18
1976	62,884	879,200	31,013	99,200	130,200	3,087	36,908	104	237	—	7,194	812	n/a	—	n/a	280.9	213.78
1977	68,782	937,100	38,657	108,200	146,900	4,384	41,599	124	211	—	8,005	914	n/a	—	n/a	421.9	224.16
1978	70,502	1,009,000	47,844	126,400	174,200	5,140	51,324	122	226	—	10,306	905	n/a	—	n/a	517.5	241.70
1979	73,397	1,055,100	44,697	137,400	182,100	6,559	51,209	137	139	—	11,122	1,050	257	—	n/a	564.4	261.32
1980	72,777	1,050,800	44,930	120,000	164,900	6,766	51,302	89	110	—	11,664	1,303	301	—	n/a	578.1	286.88
1981	70,824	1,026,200	37,498	107,200	144,700	6,944	46,600	76	141	—	11,821	1,316	296	—	n/a	423.4	304.60
1982	68,286	968,700	31,535	92,200	123,700	6,805	37,167	67	122	—	11,888	1,481	396	—	n/a	308.1	316.23
1983	68,651	973,900	34,037	92,800	126,800	6,654	36,402	97	107	—	12,279	1,484	362	—	n/a	292.3	324.23
1984	68,929	1,013,700	37,702	102,300	140,000	7,613	40,489	83	118	—	13,764	1,296	434	—	n/a	332.3	334.58
1985	68,378	1,034,600	38,808	101,500	140,300	10,204	42,414	84	154	—	16,126	1,359	377	—	n/a	419.9	344.77
1986	68,803	1,064,000	40,157	94,300	134,500	10,580	43,238	85	151	—	18,249	1,492	364	—	n/a	570.9	355.04
1987	67,941	1,105,200	41,033	97,200	138,200	11,276	44,691	78	177	—	20,397	1,719	362	—	n/a	677.0	370.96
1988	67,602	1,161,100	43,660	100,900	144,600	12,726	45,586	81	195	—	23,316	2,151	127	—	3,490	735.5	388.99
1989	68,144	1,214,900	39,170	111,400	150,600	16,760	45,143	76	124	—	27,549	1,944	214	—	2,425	798.8	406.54
1990	64,705	1,258,600	35,857	102,200	138,100	18,680	43,653	64	45	—	24,018	1,653	528	362	2,049	852.6	429.71
1991	67,410	1,258,600	31,479	97,600	129,100	19,620	37,179	65	46	9,493	19,673	2,346	491	2,840	2,258	748.1	444.55
1992	68,423	1,280,500	30,786	85,700	116,500	19,902	33,354	63	42	9,769	17,490	2,230	695	3,229	1,920	786.1	478.95
1993	70,718	1,317,100	30,741	85,000	115,700	19,796	32,722	64	13	8,393	16,422	1,726	377	3,304	2,157	739.5	489.45
1994	73,841	1,378,800	31,530	86,200	117,700	20,021	33,163	55	27	7,793	16,527	1,599	365	3,260	3,959	731.2	494.44
1995	76,026	1,431,600	30,564	89,700	120,300	20,617	33,360	48	15	8,783	14,862	1,553	288	3,929	5,689	750.3	518.60
1996	88,800	1,487,300	28,389	92,700	121,100	20,576	30,620	54	11	7,192	12,351	1,381	300	3,564	8,071	744.0	546.13
1997	89,100	1,547,800	27,922	93,600	121,500	20,915	29,291	43	15	6,161	11,266	1,307	224	3,268	10,220	733.2	576.64
1998	90,100	1,576,100	27,020	88,600	115,600	20,126	28,526	52	10	5,868	11,059	1,187	251	3,074	11,760	675.3	601.21
1999	90,300	1,602,700	25,769	88,600	114,400	19,635	27,105	47	14	5,686	11,084	1,141	219	3,073	10,786	607.6	628.64
2000	90,900	1,627,600	25,325	84,100	109,400	19,547	26,202	45	8	5,505	10,654	1,076	247	3,144	9,055	615.5	645.00
2001	91,000	1,616,400	24,607	74,900	99,500	18,750	26,028	34	-1	5,815	11,074	966	197	3,143	9,653	637.0	650.96
2002	90,700	1,596,100	23,464	68,500	92,000	17,408	24,593	52	20	5,655	10,679	939	119	3,207	7,335	728.0	665.10
2003	91,300	1,585,800	21,823	61,400	83,200	15,801	23,188	41	8	5,820	10,177	996	196	3,040	6,891	758.4	688.56
2004	92,500	1,631,300	22,319	60,400	82,700	14,882	23,209	45	13	5,887	9,980	802	163	2,869	7,559	859.0	712.96
2005	94,900	1,679,200	22,111	61,100	83,200	14,487	22,641	31	16	5,661	9,297	796	106	2,923	7,377	907.5	721.43
2006	96,800	1,730,300	23,370	62,800	86,200	14,237	23,767	37	17	5,728	9,130	782	110	2,958	8,330	982.6	756.80
2007	98,700	1,758,500	23,431	58,000	81,400	13,765	24,470	35	14	6,264	9,355	705	101	3,058	8,704	1192.9	790.38
2008	98,300	1,741,500	21,660	51,700	73,400	12,376	23,304	46	9	7,464	9,173	625	105	3,199	9,814	945.7	800.60
2009	94,800	1,632,000	18,949	42,900	61,800	11,111	20,921	31	13	7,053	8,568	601	75	3,473	9,462	766.7	819.38
2010	93,900	1,619,800	18,010	40,800	58,800	10,292	19,207	17	23	6,402	8,183	588	76	3,366	8,363	729.1	842.52
2011	99,900	1,638,500	18,690	40,100	58,800	10,062	19,184	28	9	5,263	7,631	517	77	3,213	9,192	813.1	841.26
2012	101,400	1,661,600	18,644	40,500	59,100	10,029	19,295	30	9	5,056	7,638	492	88	3,039	9,598	847.2	862.27
2013	100,300	1,694,400	18,627	40,400	59,000	9,485	19,315	30	14	5,217	7,581	426	63	3,039	9,710	880.1	888.38
2014	107,900	1,745,000	19,716	40,500	60,200	9,271	19,748	31	9	5,271	7,373	404	74	2,984	9,129	903.7	922.39
2015	112,100	1,796,400	19,567	41,500	61,100	10,228	19,636	27	13	4,904	7,165	385	71	3,131	8,538	907.6	974.20
2016	116,900	1,855,600	20,455	42,000	62,500	9,929	20,179	29	7	4,825	6,975	363	61	2,941	8,061	930.4	963.01
2017	120,200	1,899,400	20,986	45,300	66,300	10,039	21,428	35	6	4,604	6,862	308	88	3,084	8,467	937.8	1,007.05
2018	123,700	1,936,600	21,008	46,600	67,600	10,254	21,065	35	6	4,683	7,584	264	49	2,818	7,798	919.8	1,044.40

Footnotes and webpage links on the following pages

Notes:

- 1. Employers:** Counts of employers in the Oregon workers' compensation system. Employers can either obtain coverage through a workers' compensation insurer or become self-insured. The column consists of two data series. (1) The 1996-present counts are the numbers of employers that owed a workers' compensation assessment at any point during the year; the numbers are rounded to the nearest 100. A legislative change (HB 3618, 2010 legislative session) required that personal support workers pay the assessment, so they are a part of the count beginning in 2011. (2) The 1968-1995 counts represent employers with workers' compensation coverage in December of each year.
- 2. Subject workers:** Counts of workers covered by the Oregon workers' compensation system. The figures are derived from data provided by the Oregon Employment Department Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey, Oregon Department of Human Services, City of Portland (Fire and Police Disability & Retirement Fund), and Pacific Maritime Association. The figure for the latest year is subject to revision; all numbers are rounded to the nearest 100.
- 3. Accepted disabling claims:** Any injury is classified as disabling if it causes the worker temporary disability (time-loss), permanent disability, or death. The worker will not receive time-loss benefits for the first three days unless he or she is off work and not released to return to any work for the first 14 consecutive days or is admitted to a hospital as an inpatient during the first 14 consecutive days. The claim is also classified as disabling if there is a reasonable expectation that permanent disability will result from the injury. The counts are the numbers of claims accepted as disabling by insurers or upon appeal. Counts are reported by the date the claim was reported to DCBS as accepted and disabling; data for 1983 are estimated.
- 4. Estimated accepted nondisabling claims:** Accepted nondisabling claims (often known as "medical-only claims") are not reported to DCBS. The figures are derived from a number of sources. Recent data are estimated from medical billing data that are reported for some claims.
- 5. Estimated total accepted claims:** The sum of the reported accepted disabling claims and the estimated accepted nondisabling claims.
- 6. Denied claims:** Workers' compensation claims denied by insurers. The figures include both denied disabling and denied nondisabling claims. These are denials of the whole claim; claims with denials of some conditions but not all conditions are not included. The column has two data series. (1) For 1992-present, the counts are the numbers of claims originally denied during the calendar year. (2) For 1968-1991, the counts are the numbers of claims that were denied at some point during the year.
- 7. Claim closures and resolutions:** The claims closure process involves closing a claim, halting temporary disability payments, and determining permanent disability when an injured worker is found to be medically stationary. While for many claims this ends the benefits, some medical benefits are available after claim closure, and claims may be reopened for claim aggravation, new conditions, or vocational training. The claim closure process does not occur when a claims disposition agreement (CDA) is reached before the claim closure; these CDAs were authorized by law in 1990 to resolve the indemnity portion of the claim. The column consists of two data series. (1) For 1982-present, the series is the sum of the numbers of claim closures, including multiple closures per claim but excluding reclassifications, amending and correcting closures, and the numbers of CDAs that resolved the claim before the closure. Recent numbers may be revised. (2) For 1968-1981, the series is the numbers of claim closures, including reclassifications, amending and correcting closures, and multiple closures per claim.
- 8. Fatality claims:** Counts of the fatalities that had death benefits paid under the Oregon workers' compensation statute. Counts are reported by the date the claim was reported to DCBS as accepted, which may be different than the date of injury or death.
- 9. Net PTD awards:** Permanent total disability (PTD) is the loss of use or function of any portion of the body, in combination with any pre-existing disability, that permanently prevents the worker from regularly performing gainful and suitable work. The figures are the numbers of claims with awards during the year, minus the numbers rescinded by insurers and through the appeals process. A negative count indicates more PTD awards were rescinded than awarded. The data before 1978 excludes board own-motion cases.
- 10. Administrative disputes:** Counts of the major portions of the DCBS Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) administrative dispute review process. The counts include reconsideration requests on claim closures (but not correcting closures), review requests on disabling classifications, medical dispute requests, and vocational dispute requests. These are dispute resolution processes that were expanded and made mandatory by law in July 1990.
- 11. Hearing requests:** Case counts of the requests for hearings to the Workers' Compensation Board. The board has original jurisdiction on insurer claim denials and certain claims-processing issues, such as time loss and time-loss rate when the claim is open. It also hears appeals of cases decided by WCD administrative review. Counts include settlements received without a prior hearing request.
- 12. Board review requests:** Counts of hearings orders appealed to board review. They exclude third-party, crime victim, noncomplying employer, and nonsubjectivity determination cases.
- 13. Court of Appeals requests:** The number of appeals of board-review orders to the Oregon Court of Appeals.
- 14. Claim disposition agreements:** A claim disposition agreement (CDA) is an agreement between the parties to a workers' compensation claim. The worker agrees to sell back rights (e.g., rights to compensation, attorney fees, and expenses), except medical and preferred-worker benefits on an accepted claim. In other states, this is often referred to as a "compromise and release." CDAs were authorized by law from July 1990. The figures are the orders approved by the Workers' Compensation Board.
- 15. Return-to-work program use:** The count is the total number of Employer-at-Injury Program worker placements, the number of workers starting Preferred Worker Program contracts, and the number of workers who completed vocational assistance with an employment or training plan. Recent figures will change slightly as data is received.
- 16. Premium:** The column provides two data series. (1) For 1977-present, total-system written premiums are shown. The amounts are the sum of direct premiums written for private insurers and SAIF Corporation, earned large deductible premium credits for private insurers, and estimated simulated net premiums for self-insured employers. (2) For 1968-1976, the figures are earned premiums.
- 17. Benefit average weekly wage:** Provides the Oregon average weekly wage (AWW) of workers in covered employment, as determined by the Employment Department, for the last quarter of the calendar year. This is applied to the computation of benefits the following fiscal year. For example, the figure shown for 2013 is used to determine benefits beginning July 1, 2014. The AWW affects the rate of temporary disability, permanent partial disability, permanent total disability, and death benefits.

Data are subject to revision in order to reflect the most accurate information available.

Source: Information Technology and Research Section, Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, June 2019

Much of the information in the Various Characteristics report can be found on the Oregon workers' compensation system and on the Data.Oregon.Gov webpages.

Links:

Oregon workers' compensation system, summary

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/Pages/index.aspx>

Workers' compensation subject employers and employees, accepted disabling claims, and accepted disabling fatal claims are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/Pages/wc-claims.aspx>

Claim closure and resolution data are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/indemnity/ins-benefits/Pages/temp-disability.aspx>

Compensation for lost work time data are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/indemnity/ins-benefits/Pages/temp-disability.aspx>

Administrative disputes and Workers' Compensation Board data are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/disputes/Pages/index.aspx>

Return-to-work program data are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/rtw/Pages/index.aspx>

Workers' compensation insurance data are at

<https://www.oregon.gov/dCBS/reports/compensation/insurance/Pages/index.aspx>

We also provide datasets of workers' compensation data at

<https://data.oregon.gov/>