



First Glance at Accepted Disabling Claims, 2005

Information Management Division

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The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) received 22,114 accepted disabling workers' compensation claims during calendar year 2005. Of these claims, 31 were fatalities. Accepted disabling claims are those that are accepted by insurers and received by WCD for disabling occupational injuries or diseases. This is the second-lowest number of accepted disabling claims received since 1966, when legislative reforms made workers' compensation insurance mandatory for most employers and standardized data collection began.

Employment, accepted disabling claims and claims rates, Oregon, 1990-2005

Year	Employment ¹	Disabling claims		Fatalities	
		Number	Rate ²	Number	Rate ³
1990	1,258,600	35,857	2.8	64	5.1
1991	1,258,600	31,479	2.5	65	5.2
1992	1,280,500	30,786	2.4	63	4.9
1993	1,317,100	30,741	2.3	64	4.9
1994	1,378,800	31,530	2.3	55	4.0
1995	1,431,600	30,564	2.1	48	3.4
1996	1,487,300	28,389	1.9	54	3.6
1997	1,547,800	27,922	1.8	43	2.8
1998	1,576,100	27,049	1.7	52	3.3
1999	1,602,700	25,802	1.6	47	2.9
2000	1,627,600	25,365	1.6	45	2.8
2001 ⁴	1,616,400	24,645	1.5	34	2.1
2002 ⁴	1,596,100	23,482	1.5	52	3.3
2003 ⁴	1,585,800	21,832	1.4	41	2.6
2004	1,635,100	22,325	1.4	46	2.8
2005 ⁵	1,685,791	22,114	1.3	31	1.8

Notes:

¹ 1990-2004 Employment figures are estimated workers' compensation covered employment developed primarily from data supplied by the Oregon Employment Division. Figures represent annual average employment.

² Claims rates are the number of claims per 100 workers. Disabling claims include fatalities.

³ Fatality rates are the number of fatality claims per 100,000 workers.

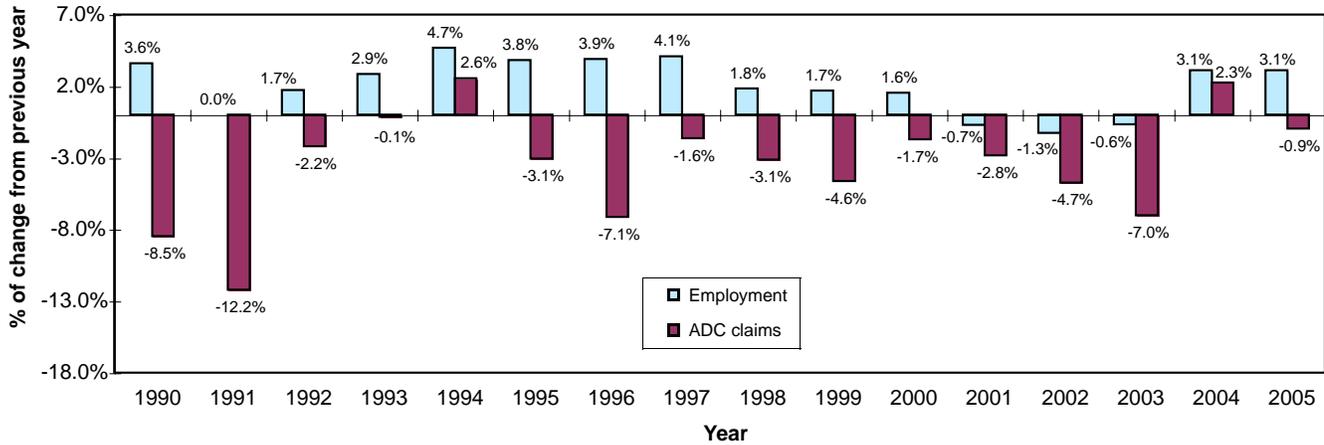
⁴ 2001-2003 figures have been updated since the SICs/NAICS conversion.

⁵ 2005 employment, claims rate, and fatality rate estimates are preliminary. The covered employment estimate is based on data from the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis forecast of nonagriculture wage and salary employment.

The statewide claims rate decreased nearly 4 percent to 1.3 claims per 100 workers, making it the lowest claims rate ever recorded in Oregon (see table, above). The fatality rate decreased to 1.8 claims per 100,000 workers, down 36 percent from 2.8 fatal claims per 100,000 workers in 2004.

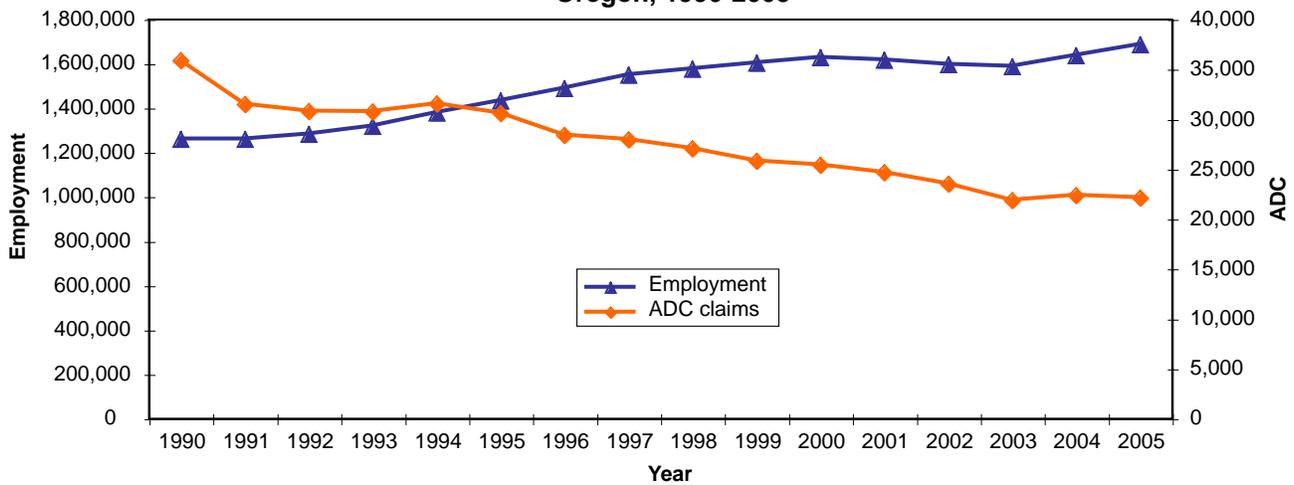
For the second year in a row, the number of workers covered by Oregon's workers' compensation law grew. The 2005 figure is projected to be the highest covered employment estimate on record for the state.

Figure 1. Percentage change of employment and accepted disabling claims, Oregon, 1990-2005



After a year of increased claims, the 2005 count returns to the near decade-long trend of declining accepted disabling claims. Accepted disabling claims diminished 0.9 percent from 2004, while the number of workers covered by workers' compensation rose 3.1 percent (see Figure 1). Although the decrease in accepted disabling claims from 2004 to 2005 was slight, there has been a 10.3 percent decrease in the number of claims since 2001.

Figure 2. Employment and accepted disabling claims trends, Oregon, 1990-2005



For a comprehensive and chronological history of Oregon's workers' compensation system and legislative reforms, see the [Biennial Report on the Oregon Workers' Compensation System](#). Reports on claim characteristic statistics can be found on the Information Management Division's Web site, <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/imd/>.

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