

# 2012 Return-to-Work Assistance table updates

Employer-at-Injury Program placements approved, CY 1995-2012						
Year	Disabling claim placements	Nondisabling claim placements	Total worker placements	Employers	Mean cost per placement	
1995	3,734	4	3,738	1,190	\$1,326	<p>The Employer-at-Injury Program was created to encourage placement of injured workers into transitional work while they recover from their injuries. Benefits available to employers and their workers include wage subsidy, worksite modification, and purchases. SB 369 of 1995 allowed benefits to become available for nondisabling claims.</p> <p>Higher counts of workers and employers with placements after 2005 are evidence that recent law changes are promoting use and access to the program, despite declining claim counts. Modifications and purchases are being used more often due to administrative law changes in late 2007.</p> <p>Historical data are subject to small changes. Disabling and nondisabling placements are counted by current claim status.</p>
1996	4,288	1,790	6,078	1,348	\$1,245	
1997	4,455	3,904	8,359	1,513	\$1,180	
1998	4,985	5,083	10,068	1,791	\$1,167	
1999	4,385	5,057	9,442	1,837	\$1,132	
2000	3,581	4,273	7,854	1,579	\$1,215	
2001	4,226	4,380	8,606	1,657	\$1,292	
2002	3,313	3,094	6,407	1,236	\$1,411	
2003	3,102	2,856	5,958	1,334	\$1,477	
2004	3,514	3,095	6,609	1,499	\$1,472	
2005	3,492	2,983	6,475	1,494	\$1,553	
2006	3,904	3,520	7,424	1,626	\$1,604	
2007	4,329	3,441	7,770	1,800	\$1,787	
2008	5,056	3,759	8,815	1,993	\$2,066	
2009	5,065	3,543	8,608	2,005	\$2,168	
2010	4,477	3,094	7,571	1,865	\$2,182	
2011	4,876	3,512	8,388	1,931	\$2,286	
2012	5,104	3,845	8,949	1,989	\$2,255	

Preferred workers, CY 1995-2012				
Year	Eligibilities	Eligibilities with benefit use	Percent of eligibilities with benefit use	
1995	4,459	1,334	29.9%	<p>Preferred workers have permanent work restrictions that prevent return to unmodified regular work. Preferred worker eligibilities in 2007 and 2008 were at their highest number since 2001, but declined to a record low in 2011.</p> <p>Eligibility entitles a preferred worker to many years - unlimited since December 2007 - in which to begin using benefits. Counts of eligibilities with benefit use do become relatively stable within about three years of the eligibility date. The percent of eligibilities with benefit use fell below 29 percent in 1998; averaged 26.1 percent for over a decade; then fell to a record low of 18.9 percent in 2010.</p> <p>Historical data are subject to small changes.</p>
1996	3,708	1,107	29.9%	
1997	3,120	912	29.2%	
1998	2,946	738	25.1%	
1999	2,549	645	25.3%	
2000	2,267	586	25.8%	
2001	2,375	565	23.8%	
2002	1,858	501	27.0%	
2003	1,821	499	27.4%	
2004	1,779	482	27.1%	
2005	1,794	476	26.5%	
2006	1,756	467	26.6%	
2007	2,014	553	27.5%	
2008	1,943	389	20.0%	
2009	1,617	322	19.9%	
2010	1,346	255	18.9%	
2011	1,165	Available August 2014		
2012	1,186	Available August 2015		

**Preferred Worker Program contracts started, CY 1995-2012**

Year	Workers starting one or more contracts	Wage subsidies	Worksite modifications	Purchases
1995	1,379	1,110	418	527
1996	1,448	1,111	515	638
1997	1,380	1,063	448	602
1998	1,273	957	448	668
1999	979	734	293	462
2000	871	673	282	344
2001	718	539	232	310
2002	594	473	200	250
2003	620	517	200	235
2004	620	488	265	249
2005	594	458	245	252
2006	573	482	232	225
2007	604	495	218	237
2008	697	463	231	583
2009	541	342	187	415
2010	494	305	185	384
2011	526	350	162	411
2012	416	270	136	295

Preferred Worker Program benefits include premium exemption and claim cost reimbursement, plus wage subsidy, worksite modification, and employment purchase contracts or agreements. Workers may use all these benefits more than one time.

Administrative law changes provided for use of program benefits at the injury employer's initiative beginning July 2005 and worksite creation purchases in December 2007. The number of workers starting contracts in 2012 was the lowest on record.

Workers may start contracts in multiple years. Historical data are subject to small changes.

**Vocational assistance determinations, CY 1995-2012**

Year	Total determinations	Ineligible	Eligible
1995	4,447	3,168	1,279
1996	4,084	2,975	1,109
1997	3,547	2,698	849
1998	3,441	2,647	794
1999	3,299	2,555	744
2000	2,421	1,705	716
2001	2,046	1,291	755
2002	2,046	1,308	738
2003	2,108	1,324	784
2004	2,495	1,723	772
2005	2,668	1,929	740
2006	2,439	1,749	690
2007	2,293	1,539	754
2008	2,665	1,960	705
2009	2,267	1,626	641
2010	1,137	566	571
2011	901	438	463
2012	719	350	369

Insurers determine eligibility or ineligibility for vocational assistance for workers with permanent partial disability who do not return to permanent work with the employer at injury. The department audits claim closures to assure that insurers determine eligibility.

In general, workers are eligible for vocational assistance if they have a substantial handicap that prevents re-employment in any job that pays at least 80 percent of the job-at-injury wages. Eligible determinations include insurer letters, eligibility orders, and eligibility restorations.

Although the total number of determinations in 2010 was the lowest on record to that time (about half the previous year), most of the change was among the ineligible workers. HB 2705 (2009) allows forgoing a determination when the worker has a regular work release.

Data may be reported by the insurer several months after the determination.

**Vocational assistance eligibility closures, plans, and outcomes, CY 1995-2012**

Year	Total eligibility closures	Closed, no plan	Closed, direct employment plan	Closed, training plan	Outcome: return to work	Outcome: maximum services or job ended	Outcome: CDA	Outcome: other
1995	1,404	832	51	521	340	87	631	346
1996	1,243	698	39	506	337	58	582	266
1997	993	512	23	458	248	59	441	245
1998	874	455	6	413	208	50	424	192
1999	781	416	7	358	157	41	354	229
2000	725	395	4	326	171	46	323	185
2001	714	387	4	323	154	46	312	202
2002	787	453	7	327	140	70	390	187
2003	735	423	8	304	123	75	371	166
2004	779	449	5	325	128	60	375	216
2005	749	441	4	304	135	48	358	208
2006	743	410	7	326	143	48	368	184
2007	724	394	3	327	152	46	319	207
2008	714	412	5	297	109	45	351	209
2009	689	376	12	301	95	70	314	210
2010	634	336	10	288	81	62	325	166
2011	569	287	10	272	66	64	278	161
2012	475	239	2	234	68	46	222	139

Eligibility closures include insurer eligibility closures and eligibilities where there is a claim disposition agreement in full, but no eligibility closure. No-plan closures continue to account for 50 percent or more of eligibility closures. The claim disposition agreement continues to account for about 50 percent of eligibility closure outcomes.

Data may be reported by the insurer several months after the closure.

**Employment and wage recovery advantage for return-to-work program users, FY 1997-2012**

Fiscal year	Employer-at-Injury Program	Preferred Worker Program	Vocational Assistance	All return-to-work programs	Employer-at-Injury Program	Preferred Worker Program	Vocational Assistance	All return-to-work programs
1997	7	24	24	10	3	24	17	4
1998	5	23	28	11	2	22	27	9
1999	3	22	28	10	2	21	25	9
2000	6	24	30	12	6	22	26	12
2001	5	24	24	11	5	15	19	11
2002	4	21	21	9	8	18	28	14
2003	3	20	35	10	9	20	27	14
2004	4	23	35	11	8	14	33	14
2005	4	24	29	11	5	29	19	12
2006	6	29	34	13	9	33	26	16
2007	5	23	31	10	6	20	40	12
2008	4	27	39	11	4	27	30	11
2009	4	27	35	11	3	24	41	11
2010	6	26	21	12	6	28	28	14
2011	6	32	34	12	6	28	17	13
2012	3	44	19	11	3	51	8	12
2012	3	44	19	11	3	51	8	12

The department analyzes data from the Oregon Employment Department to calculate percentage-point differences in employment and wage-recovery rates between workers with accepted disabling claims who used return-to-work programs and similar workers who did not. The measures are based on wages reported in the 13th quarter after the disabling injury or exposure, when most workers have recuperated and used return-to-work programs. Since 2000, at least 87 percent of the program use at that point has been the Employer-at-Injury Program.