

2009 Compensability table updates

Total reported claims, FY 1989-2009				
Fiscal year	Accepted disabling	Denied disabling	Percent denied disabling	Denied non-disabling
1989	40,515	6,640	14.1%	8,022
1990	35,918	9,534	21.0%	10,551
1991	31,156	8,024	20.5%	12,426
1992	28,577	7,522	20.8%	12,930
1993	29,125	6,013	17.1%	13,414
1994	29,731	6,235	17.3%	13,251
1995	29,740	6,535	18.0%	13,377
1996	27,373	5,958	17.9%	14,118
1997	26,918	5,515	17.0%	14,759
1998	26,032	5,354	17.1%	14,962
1999	24,857	5,244	17.4%	14,683
2000	24,405	4,899	16.7%	13,742
2001	23,850	4,717	16.5%	13,876
2002	22,126	4,704	17.5%	12,990
2003	21,493	4,420	17.1%	11,715
2004	20,004	4,117	17.1%	10,176
2005	21,020	4,030	16.1%	9,578
2006	21,445	3,516	14.1%	9,672
2007	22,449	3,873	14.7%	9,165
2008	21,734	3,533	14.0%	8,391
2009	18,850	3,329	15.0%	7,301

The denial rate of disabling claims remained fairly constant over the period FY 1993-2005, varying between 16 percent and 18 percent. The denial rate in FY 2006-2009 was slightly lower, varying between 14 percent and 15 percent.

Notes: With few exceptions, insurers do not report accepted nondisabling claims to the department.

Disabling occupational disease claims, FY 1989-2009			
Fiscal year	Accepted	Denied	Percent denied
1989	3,980	2,041	33.9%
1990	3,496	2,761	44.1%
1991	3,068	2,115	40.8%
1992	3,101	2,293	42.5%
1993	3,212	1,941	37.7%
1994	3,289	2,039	38.3%
1995	3,384	2,083	38.1%
1996	3,247	1,926	37.2%
1997	3,349	1,905	36.3%
1998	3,180	1,685	34.6%
1999	2,766	1,597	36.6%
2000	2,890	1,479	33.9%
2001	3,210	1,582	33.0%
2002	3,142	1,780	36.2%
2003	3,275	1,636	33.3%
2004	3,074	1,727	36.0%
2005	3,247	1,670	34.0%
2006	3,182	1,431	31.0%
2007	3,480	1,523	30.4%
2008	2,926	1,339	31.4%
2009	2,662	1,302	32.8%

The denial rate of occupational disease claims was fairly constant over the period FY 1996-2005, varying between 33 percent and 37 percent. The denial rate in FY 2006-2008 was slightly lower, varying between 30 percent and 31 percent before rising to 33 percent in FY 2009.

Although the denial rate was slightly higher, the total number of disabling occupational disease claims reported to the department in FY 2009 was 8.7 percent lower than the previous year.

Over the past five fiscal years, nearly half of disabling occupational disease claims were due to diseases and disorders of the musculoskeletal, connective tissue, and peripheral nervous systems. These claims include rheumatisms, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, tendonitis, various back or spinal conditions (dorsopathies), and arthritic conditions.

Disabling aggravation claims, 1991-2008

Year	Accepted	Denied	Percent denied	<p>The number of aggravation claims has increased since 2005. The denial rate is now above 50 percent.</p> <p>Note: The counts are aggravation claims reported to the department by insurers. These exclude claims made under Board Own Motion authority for worsened conditions, which can be made after the five-year aggravation period expires.</p>
1991	2,042	1,675	45.1%	
1992	2,201	1,514	40.8%	
1993	2,099	1,337	38.9%	
1994	1,915	1,171	37.9%	
1995	1,593	907	36.3%	
1996	1,565	950	37.8%	
1997	1,351	993	42.4%	
1998	1,172	763	39.4%	
1999	1,038	730	41.3%	
2000	876	618	41.4%	
2001	902	575	38.9%	
2002	773	535	40.9%	
2003	717	483	40.3%	
2004	563	416	42.5%	
2005	549	340	38.2%	
2006	523	432	45.2%	
2007	518	534	50.8%	
2008	502	571	53.2%	