

# 2009 Return-to-Work Assistance table updates

Employer-at-Injury Program placements approved, 1995-2008				
Year	Workers	Employers	Average cost per placement	<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. Modifications and purchases are being used more often due to administrative law changes in late 2007.</p> <p>Increasing counts of workers and employers with placements approved since 2005 are evidence that recent law changes are promoting use and access to the program.</p> <p>Note: Data were revised following system updates to reflect administrative rule changes.</p>
1995	3,739	1,191	\$1,326	
1996	6,078	1,348	\$1,245	
1997	8,359	1,513	\$1,180	
1998	10,068	1,791	\$1,167	
1999	9,442	1,837	\$1,132	
2000	7,854	1,580	\$1,215	
2001	8,585	1,644	\$1,290	
2002	6,406	1,236	\$1,411	
2003	5,954	1,334	\$1,477	
2004	6,609	1,496	\$1,472	
2005	6,475	1,491	\$1,553	
2006	7,424	1,624	\$1,604	
2007	7,770	1,798	\$1,788	
2008	8,809	1,993	\$2,034	

Preferred workers, CY 1995-2008				
Calendar year	Eligibilities	Workers using benefits	Percent of eligibilities with benefit use	<p>Preferred workers have permanent work restrictions that prevent return to unmodified regular work. In 2007, there were 2,022 preferred worker eligibilities, the highest number since 2001.</p> <p>Benefit use among preferred workers is difficult to measure because some workers use benefits as soon as possible after eligibility while others may wait for years. There is no time limit on when use may begin. Current statistics exclude some workers using benefits at the injury employer's initiative.</p> <p>Preferred worker statistical data were revised following system updates to reflect administrative rule changes.</p>
1995	4,459	1,334	30%	
1996	3,708	1,104	30%	
1997	3,120	912	29%	
1998	2,946	738	25%	
1999	2,549	644	25%	
2000	2,267	584	26%	
2001	2,375	562	24%	
2002	1,858	492	26%	
2003	1,821	497	27%	
2004	1,779	471	26%	
2005	1,806	459	25%	
2006	1,768	Available Dec. 2009		
2007	2,022	Available Dec. 2010		
2008	1,991	Available Dec. 2011		

Preferred Worker Program contracts started, CY 1995-2008				
Calendar year	Workers starting 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	603	494	218	237
2008	690	454	232	583

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 2008 was the highest since 2001.

Note: Data were revised following system updates to reflect administrative rule changes.

**Vocational assistance determinations, 1995-2008**

Year	Total determinations	Ineligible	Eligible	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note: Eligible determinations include insurer letters, eligibility orders, and eligibility restorations. Data may be reported by the insurer several months after the determination.</p>
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	1,928	740	
2006	2,439	1,749	690	
2007	2,288	1,538	750	
2008	2,634	1,948	686	

**Vocational assistance eligibility closures, plans, and outcomes, 1995-2008**

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	1,403	840	52	511	340	87	631	345
1996	1,242	701	39	502	337	58	582	265
1997	993	515	23	455	248	59	441	245
1998	870	455	6	409	208	50	424	188
1999	777	415	7	355	157	41	354	225
2000	723	396	4	323	171	46	324	182
2001	708	382	4	322	154	46	313	195
2002	782	454	7	321	140	70	394	178
2003	717	418	7	292	123	75	380	139
2004	760	440	5	315	128	60	391	181
2005	728	432	4	292	135	48	370	175
2006	731	408	7	316	143	48	390	150
2007	698	388	3	307	149	44	344	161
2008	661	400	3	258	93	35	377	156

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 more than 50 percent of eligibility closures. The claim disposition agreement continues to account for 50 percent or more of eligibility closure outcomes.

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