

2011 Compensability table updates

Total reported claims, FY 1989-2011				
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	18,874	3,408	15.3%	7,221
2010	17,068	3,017	15.0%	6,656
2011	17,029	2,644	13.4%	5,794

The number of disabling claims has declined by an average of 3.4 percent per year since FY 1989, although there has been considerable year-to-year variability. The number fell 12 percent in FY 2009 and 10 percent more in FY 2010. Accepted disabling claims were essentially unchanged in 2011, although total disabling claims were down again. One explanation for the decrease in disabling claims is the decrease in employment that has accompanied the current recession.

Over the past 20 years, the denial rate of disabling claims has generally declined, although with some variability.

Since 1998, the absolute number of denied nondisabling claims has fallen steadily.

These statistics are based on the original acceptance status reported by insurers. Status changes that may occur over time are not reflected.

Accepted nondisabling claims are not included in this report, because insurers are not required to report them to the department.

Disabling occupational disease claims, FY 1989-2011			
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	3,217	1,939	37.6%
1994	3,305	2,037	38.1%
1995	3,446	2,089	37.7%
1996	3,446	1,965	36.3%
1997	3,591	1,993	35.7%
1998	3,329	1,768	34.7%
1999	2,884	1,657	36.5%
2000	3,064	1,524	33.2%
2001	3,250	1,590	32.9%
2002	3,218	1,794	35.8%
2003	3,341	1,646	33.0%
2004	3,164	1,751	35.6%
2005	3,447	1,698	33.0%
2006	3,681	1,555	29.7%
2007	3,660	1,560	29.9%
2008	3,378	1,428	29.7%
2009	2,996	1,378	31.5%
2010	2,317	1,239	34.8%
2011	2,143	1,012	32.1%

The denial rate of occupational disease claims has shown a steady decline averaging 1.4 percent per year since 1990.

The total number of disabling occupational disease claims reported to the department has also generally declined over the period, although with considerable variability. In FY 2011, it was more than 7 percent lower than the previous year.

Historical data are subject to small changes.

Disabling aggravation claims, 1991-2010

Year	Accepted	Denied	Percent denied	
1991	2,042	1,675	45.1%	<p>After a claim has been closed, an injured worker is entitled to additional compensation for worsened conditions resulting from the original injury. The number of these aggravation claims has generally declined over the past two decades, hovering around 1,000 since 2004. However, the number of these claims that have been denied has not declined as rapidly. As a result, the denial rate is now almost 55 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>
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	506	566	52.8%	
2009	447	554	55.3%	
2010	438	533	54.9%	