

2011 Return-to-Work Assistance table updates

Employer-at-Injury Program placements approved, CY 1995-2010						
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	4,216	4,370	8,586	1,646	\$1,290	
2002	3,312	3,094	6,406	1,235	\$1,411	
2003	3,098	2,856	5,954	1,333	\$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	3,903	3,521	7,424	1,626	\$1,604	
2007	4,327	3,443	7,770	1,800	\$1,787	
2008	5,051	3,764	8,815	1,993	\$2,066	
2009	5,058	3,550	8,608	2,005	\$2,164	
2010	4,449	3,121	7,570	1,866	\$2,113	

Preferred workers, CY 1995-2010				
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 2010.</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 25.8 percent for more than a decade, then fell to a record low of 18.8 percent in 2008.</p> <p>Historical data are subject to small changes.</p>
1996	3,708	1,104	29.9%	
1997	3,120	912	29.2%	
1998	2,946	738	25.1%	
1999	2,549	644	25.3%	
2000	2,267	584	25.8%	
2001	2,375	562	23.7%	
2002	1,858	492	26.6%	
2003	1,821	497	27.3%	
2004	1,780	480	27.0%	
2005	1,805	472	26.1%	
2006	1,765	463	26.2%	
2007	2,021	537	26.6%	
2008	1,983	372	18.8%	
2009	1,655	Available August 2012		
2010	1,397	Available August 2013		

Preferred Worker Program contracts started, CY 1995-2010

Year	Workers starting one or more contracts	Wage subsidies	Worksite modifications	Purchases	
1995	1,379	1,110	418	527	<p>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.</p> <p>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 2010 was the lowest on record.</p> <p>Workers may start contracts in multiple years. Historical data are subject to small changes.</p>
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	695	462	231	582	
2009	539	339	187	415	
2010	488	296	170	382	

Vocational assistance determinations, CY 1995-2010

Year	Total determinations	Ineligible	Eligible	
1995	4,447	3,168	1,279	<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. Eligible determinations include insurer letters, eligibility orders, and eligibility restorations.</p> <p>Although the total number of determinations in 2010 was the lowest on record (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.</p> <p>Data may be reported by the insurer several months after the determination.</p>
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	2,288	1,539	754	
2008	2,663	1,959	704	
2009	2,267	1,626	641	
2010	1,134	565	569	

Vocational assistance eligibility closures, plans, and outcomes, CY 1995-2010

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	697	410	5	282	109	45	377	166
2009	673	376	12	285	95	69	332	177
2010	628	339	10	279	81	62	343	142

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.

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

Employment and wage recovery advantage for return-to-work program users, FY 1997-2011

Fiscal year	Employment				Wage recovery			
	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	14

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.