

<p>Workers' Compensation Claims Defense Legal Costs and Attorney Fees – The data in this table covers defense legal costs and claimant attorney fees. We collect information on the amounts spent by insurers in workers' compensation disputes. These are known as defense legal costs, which are reported by insurers annually. We also provide information on the attorney fees awarded to claimants' attorney. This information is described below.</p>	
Year	Calendar year.
<p>Defense Legal Costs – The insurers' and self-insured employers' costs associated with defending themselves against claims or benefits believed to be unwarranted. Defense legal costs differ from claimant attorney fees in several ways: they are the actual amounts paid in total rather than the amounts awarded by the Board or Court, or set forth in a statute or rule; they are not reversible on appeal; there may be fees paid to multiple attorneys on a single dispute; and the fees reported are the total by firm and not on a per claim basis. These data are collected by the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) in an annual survey of the workers' compensation insurers.</p>	
Defense legal costs	The total defense legal costs for the calendar year, in thousands of dollars. These costs include estimated totals for insurers who do not report and those with fewer than three total litigated claims in the calendar year.
<p>Claimant attorney fees – There are two types of claimant attorney fees: assessed fees and out-of-compensation fees. Assessed fees are amounts paid to the attorney that are in addition to any claimant award; they are assessed against the insurer. Out-of-compensation fees are a portion of the claimant's award that is paid to the claimant's attorney.</p> <p>The data are taken from WCD and WCB data systems. Because of data limitations, attorney fees awarded for WCD contested cases, Board Own Motion cases, Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court cases are not included in these figures.</p> <p>Total fees may change over time as cases move through the litigation process. All fees are reported in thousands of dollars.</p>	
Total attorney fees	The total claimant attorney fees awarded, in thousands of dollars, during the calendar year. This is the sum of the assessed and out-of-compensation fees.
<p>Assessed claimant attorney fees: Assessed fees are amounts paid to the attorney that are in addition to any claimant award; they are assessed against the insurer.</p>	
Total assessed fees	Total of all assessed attorney fees, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. From 2004, the data is the sum of the next three categories. For earlier years, the WCD attorney fee data is unavailable.
WCD	Attorney fees awarded at medical review and for vocational assistance, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. Data is available beginning in 2004.
Hearings	Attorney fees paid by employers at Hearings, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. The total is based on the latest order date and type when fees are awarded for each case. We include cases if the orders are Opinion and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Order Awarding Attorney Fees, Stipulation, Disputed Claim Settlement, Order based on Stipulation, or

	WCD/Proposed & Final Order (contested cases only). The total also includes attorney fees awarded in remanded or dismissed cases.
Board	Attorney fees paid by employers at Board Review, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. The total is based on the latest order date and type when fees are awarded for each case. We include cases if the orders are order on review, stipulation or disputed claim settlement (DCS), dismissal, or order on reconsideration. It also includes cases on remand. Assessed attorney fees for services at Hearings can be reduced at Board Review. We subtract reduced fee totals from attorney fee totals at Board Review.
Out-of-compensation claimant attorney fees: Total of all out-of-compensation attorney fees.	
Total out-of-compensation fees	Total of all out-of-compensation attorney fees, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. The data is the sum of the next four categories.
WCD Reconsiderations	Attorney fees paid during reconsideration, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. All fees paid on reconsideration come out of claimant's compensation. These fees are different from the fees for Orders on Reconsideration at Hearings.
CDA	Attorney fees paid for services in negotiating a Claim Disposition Agreement. These are reported in thousands of dollars by calendar year.
Hearings	Attorney fees paid out of the claimant's compensation at Hearings, in thousands of dollars, by calendar year. The total includes fees awarded based on the latest order date and type for each case. We include cases if the orders are Opinion and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Order Awarding Attorney Fees, Stipulation, Disputed Claim Settlement, Order based on Stipulation, or WCD/Proposed & Final Order (contested cases only). The total also includes attorney fees awarded in remanded or dismissed cases.
Board	Attorney fees paid out of claimant compensation at Board Review by calendar year. The total is based on the latest order date and type when fees are awarded for each case. We include cases if the orders are order on review, stipulation or disputed claim settlement (DCS), dismissal, or order on reconsideration. It also includes cases on remand. Out of compensation attorney fees for services at Hearings can be reduced at Board Review. We subtract reduced fee totals from attorney fee totals at Board Review.