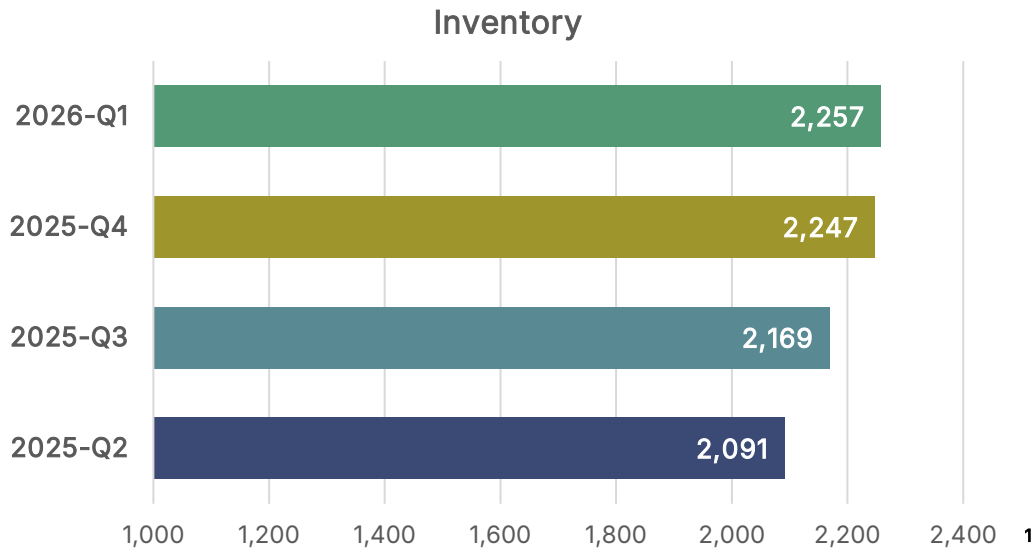


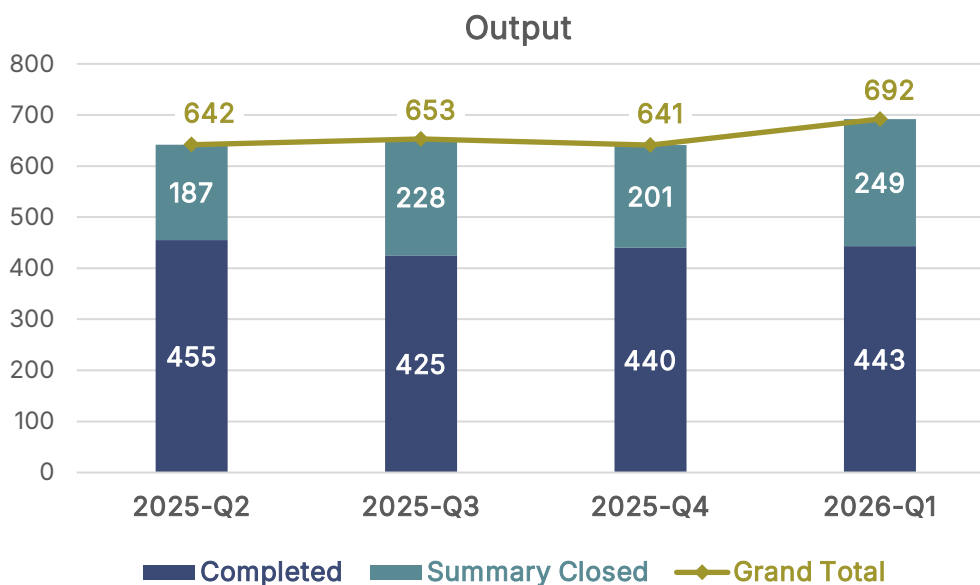
Inventory

As of March 31, 2026, WCAT's total active inventory was 2,257 appeals and applications. Most appeals are compensation appeals from the Review Division of the Workers' Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC).



Output

During the first quarter of 2026, WCAT made decisions on the merits of 443 appeals and applications² and made summary decisions on a further 249 appeals that were rejected, dismissed, withdrawn, or suspended.



1, 3

¹ Current data corrections may result in changes to previous data.

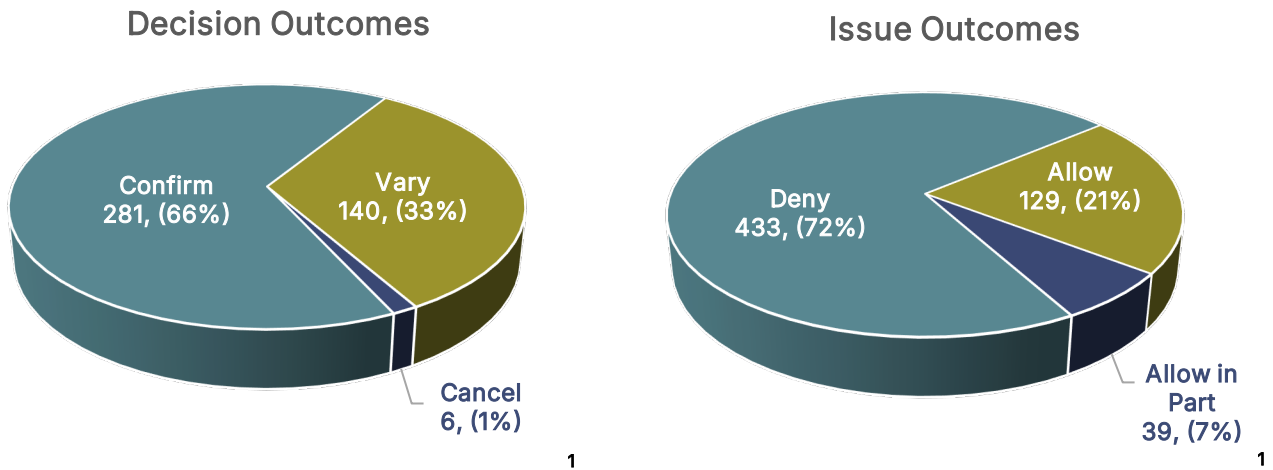
² These include 427 merit decisions, 9 certifications to court, and 7 reconsideration decisions.

³ Summary decisions are appeals that are closed or dismissed without a full hearing for a variety of reasons. For further reference, please see [Get a final decision](#).

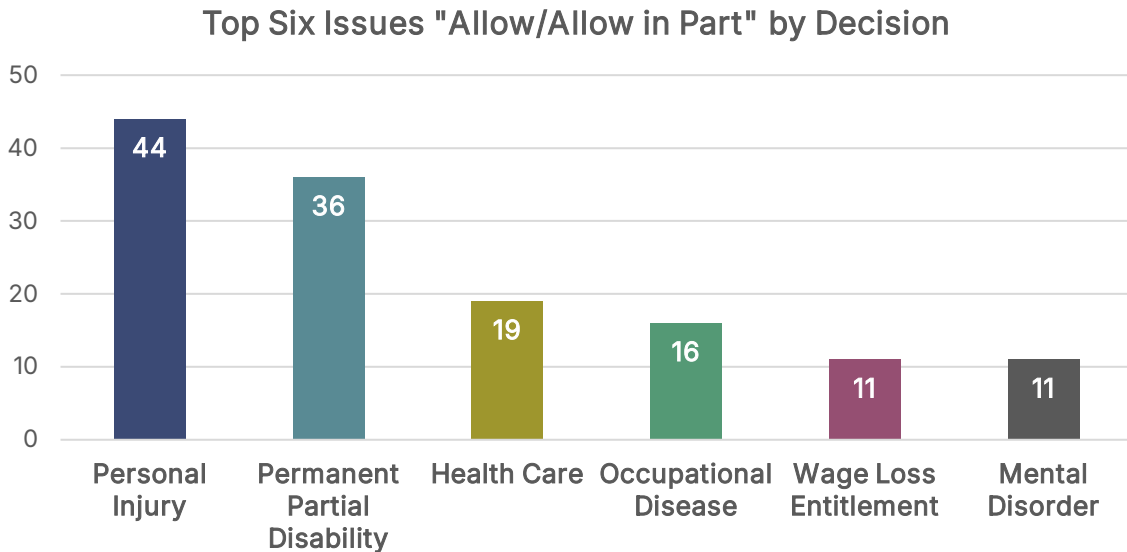
Appeal Outcomes

When WCAT makes a decision on the merits of an appeal, the decision under appeal may be varied, confirmed, or cancelled by WCAT. "Vary" means that WCAT varied the previous decision in whole or in part. "Confirm" means that WCAT agreed with all aspects of the previous decision. "Cancel" means that WCAT set aside the previous decision without a new or changed decision being provided in its place. The outcomes related to decisions is the first chart below.

An appeal may raise numerous issues and WCAT may allow, allow in part, or deny the appeal on each issue. During the first quarter of 2026, WCAT decided 601 issues on 427 merit appeals. The outcomes related to issues is the second chart below.



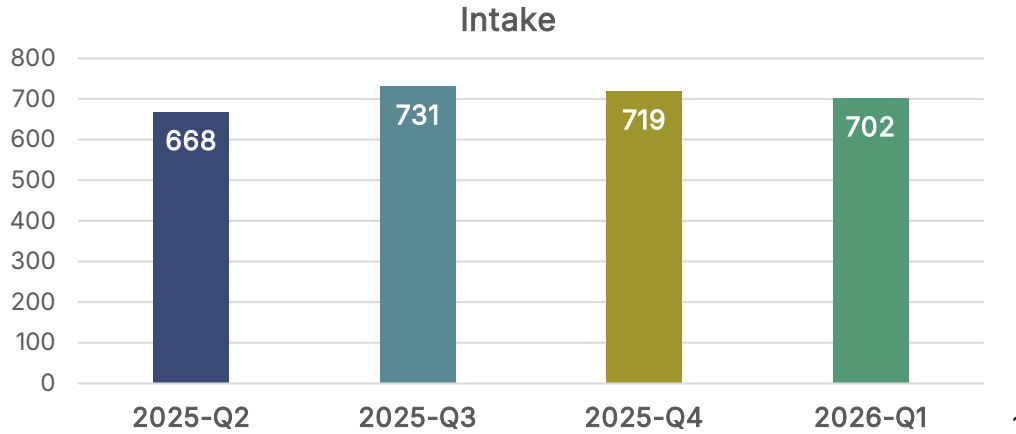
The top six⁴ issues where WCAT allowed an appeal or allowed it in part are displayed in the bar chart below.



⁴ This quarter includes a sixth issue as two categories recorded the same number of issues.

Intake

During the first quarter of 2026, WCAT received 702 new appeals and applications. 90% arose from decisions of WorkSafeBC review officers and 10% were direct appeals and applications.

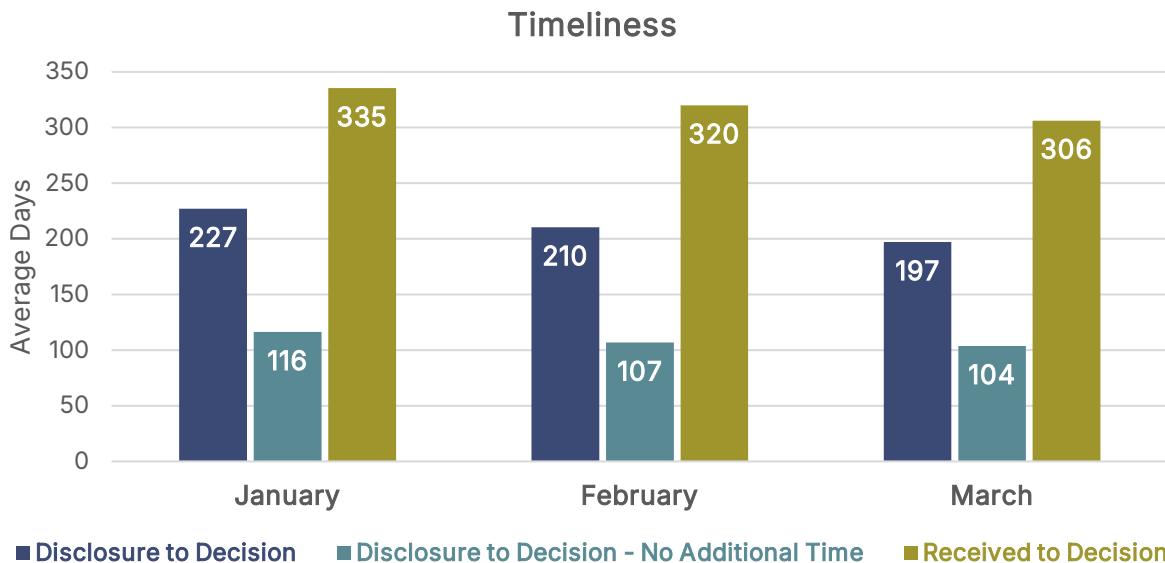


Time to Decision

Section 306 of the *Workers Compensation Act* requires WCAT to decide new appeals within 180 days from the date that WCAT receives from WorkSafeBC the records (disclosure) relating to the decision under appeal.

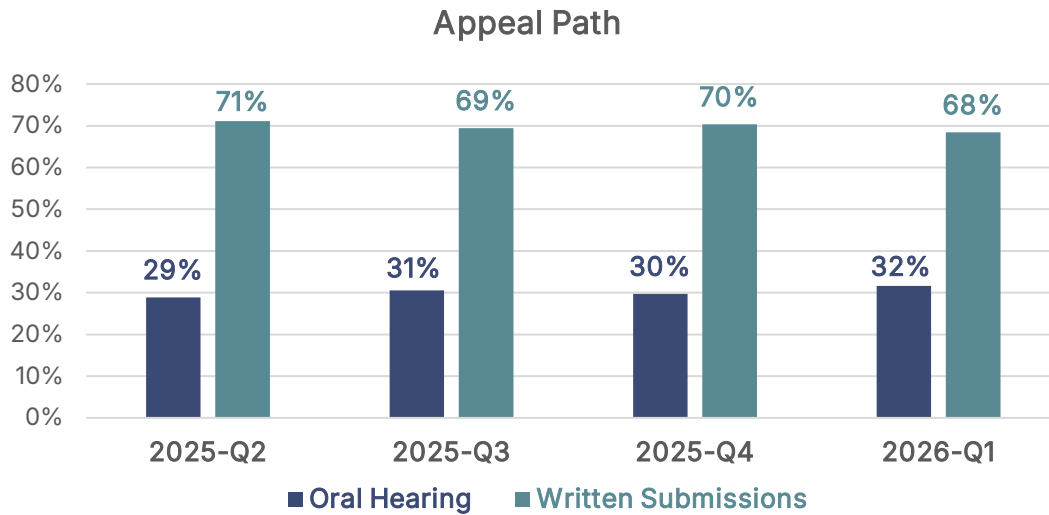
The 180-day statutory timeframe may be extended up to a maximum of 90 days to provide parties with additional time to make submissions or submit new evidence (additional time for submissions). The statutory timeframe may also be extended based on complexity (additional time for decision).

In addition to tracking the time from receipt of disclosure to final decision, WCAT also monitors the time from receipt of a Notice of Appeal to final decision.



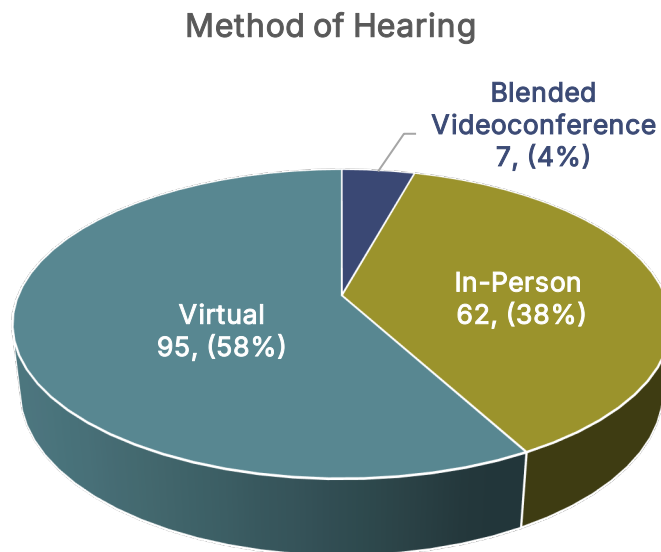
Appeal Path

Of the 443 appeals and applications decided in the first quarter of 2026, 140 (32%) were decided after convening an oral hearing and 303 (68%) after consideration of written submissions.



Hearings

During the first quarter of 2026, WCAT held 164 oral hearings: 62 were held fully in person, 7 were held by blended videoconference⁵, and 95 were held fully virtually.



⁵ Blended videoconference includes hearings where parties participated in person, videoconference, and possibly phone call.

Independent Health Professionals

The *Workers Compensation Amendment Act (No. 2), 2022* was amended in 2022 to permit an employer, worker, or dependant of a deceased worker to make a written request that a WCAT vice chair retain a health professional to provide independent assistance or advice in an appeal. This amendment came into force on April 3, 2023.

The WCAT vice chair receiving a request must retain an independent health professional (IHP) if the medical condition of the worker is at issue in the appeal, and the vice chair determines that the independent assistance or advice would assist in reaching a decision on the appeal.

In addition to parties requesting IHPs, the vice chair may determine that independent assistance or advice would assist in reaching a decision on the appeal and commence the IHP process on their own initiative.

The IHP inventory at the beginning of 2026 was 29. In the first quarter of 2026, WCAT received 10 new requests to an IHP, which were all from the worker.

In the first quarter of 2026, 9 requests were decided by WCAT vice chairs. Most of the IHP requests for these decided requests were made by the appellant worker (8, (89%)).

Out of the 9 IHP requests decided in the first quarter of 2026, 2 were allowed and 7 were denied.

In the first quarter of 2026, the IHP process was commenced in 16 appeals. The majority of these were initiated by the WCAT vice chair (13, (81%)).

Where an IHP is not available, or where the vice chair determines that an opinion should be sought from a treating professional, the vice chair may obtain an opinion from an External Health professional (EHP). In the first quarter of 2026, 2 EHPs were initiated by the WCAT vice chair.