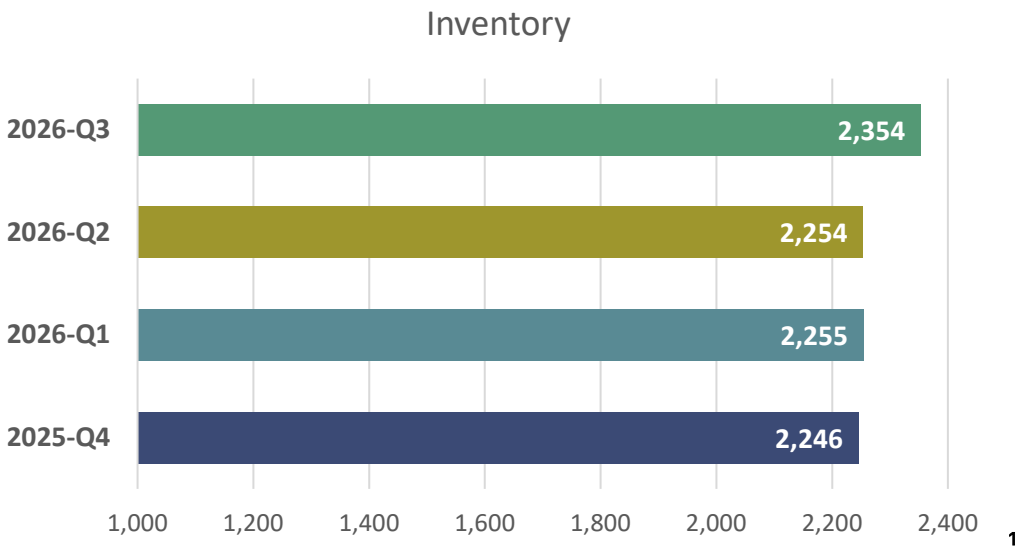
Inventory

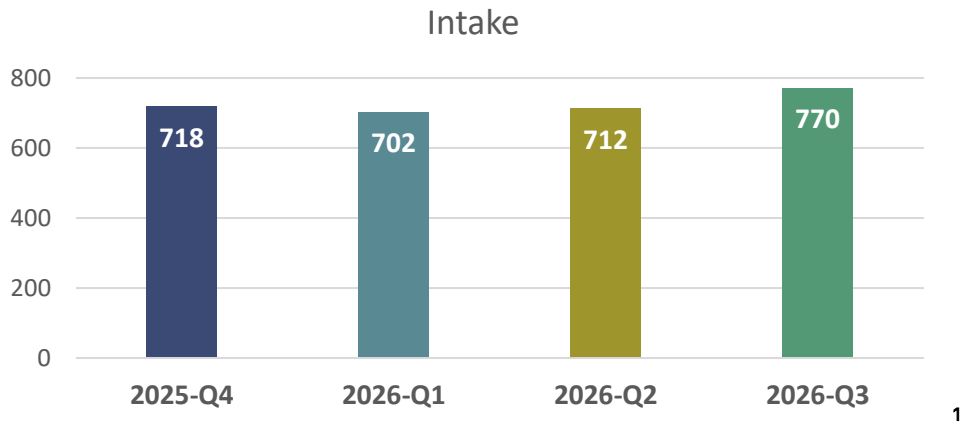
As of September 30, 2026, our total active inventory was 2,354 appeals and applications. Most appeals are compensation appeals from the Review Division of the Workers' Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC).



[1]

Intake

During the third quarter of 2026, WCAT received 770 new appeals and applications. 92% arose from decisions of WorkSafeBC review officers and 8% were direct appeals and applications.

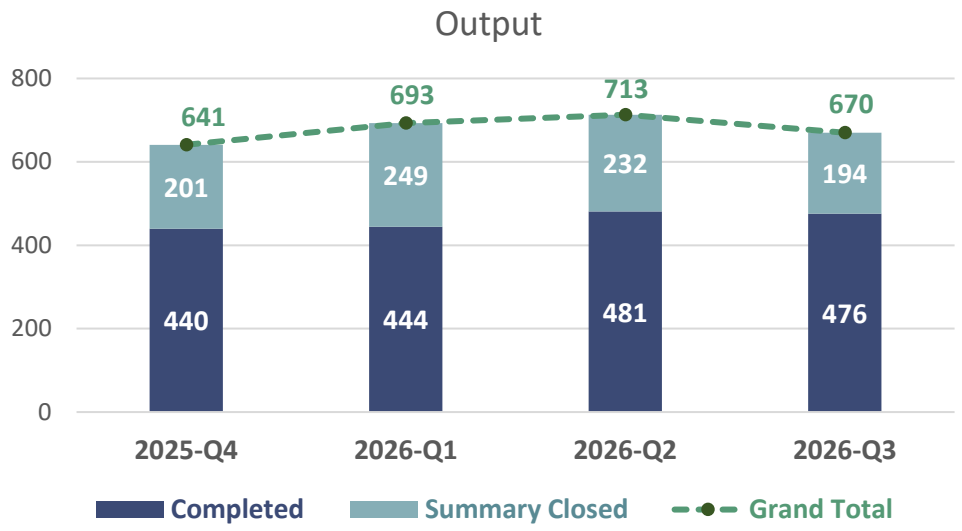


[1]

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

Output

During the third quarter of 2026, WCAT made decisions on the merits of 476 appeals and applications[2] and made summary decisions on a further 194 appeals that were rejected, dismissed, withdrawn, or suspended.

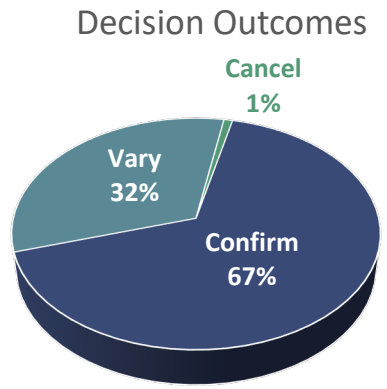


1, 3

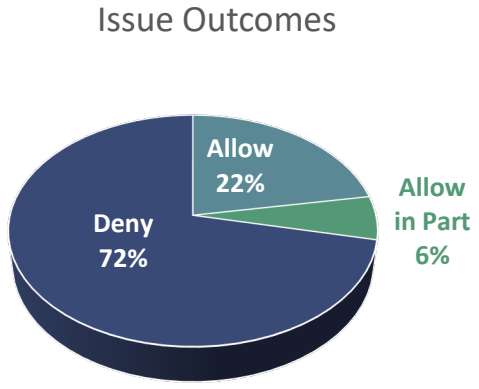
Appeal Outcomes

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 pie chart below.

An appeal may raise numerous issues and WCAT may allow, allow in part, or deny the appeal on each issue. During the third quarter of 2026, we decided 659 issues on 466 merit appeals. The outcomes related to issues is the second pie chart below.



1

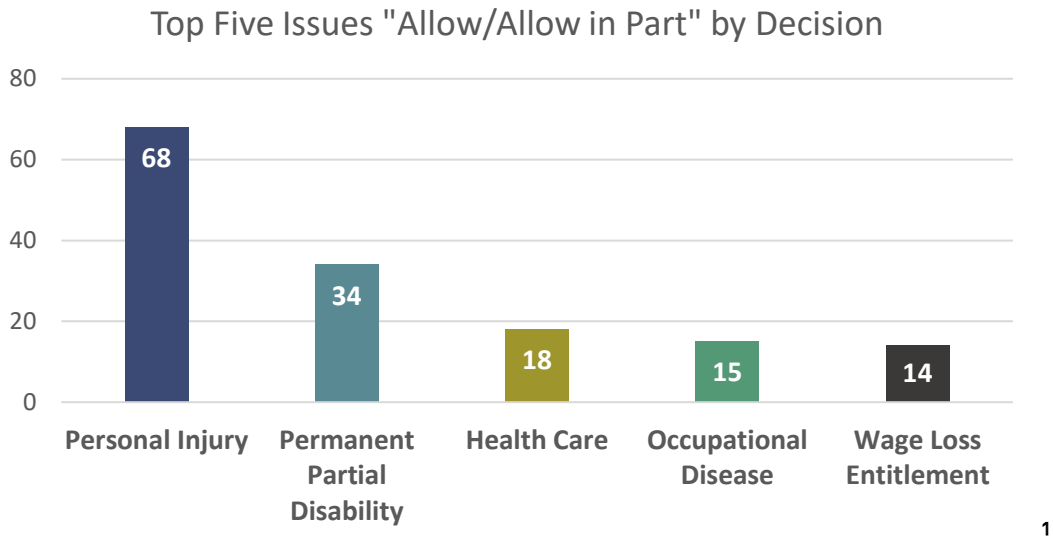


1

[2] These include 466 merit decisions, 6 certification to court, and 4 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.

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



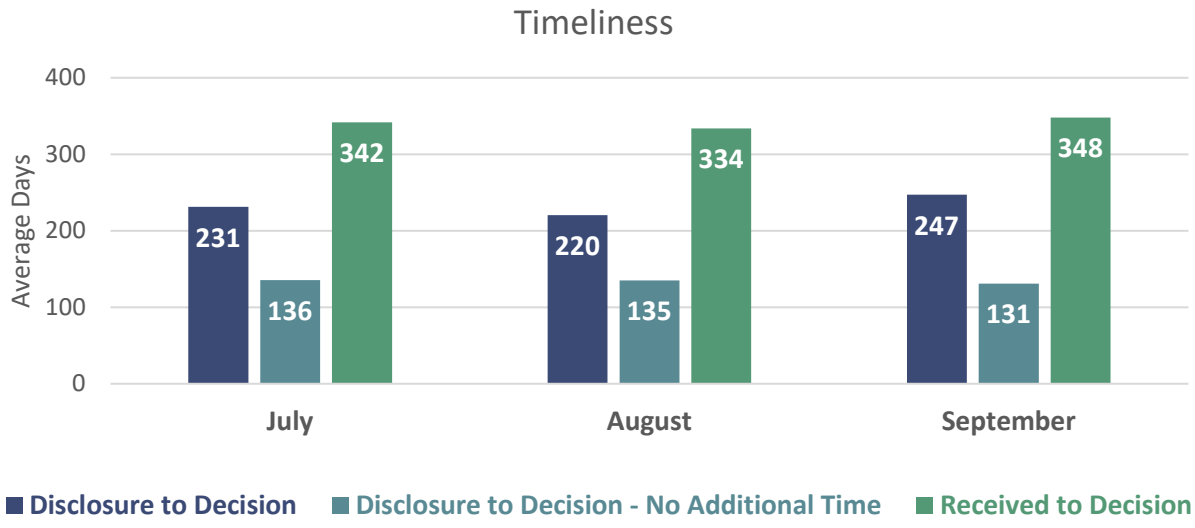
1

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).

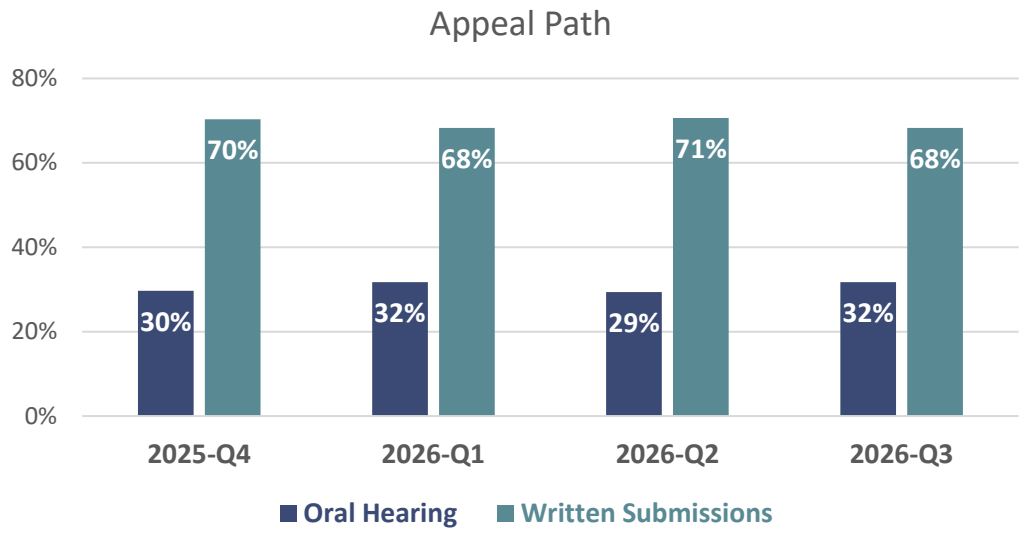
In addition to tracking the time from receipt of disclosure to final decision, WCAT also monitors the time from receipt of a Notice of Appeal to final decision.



1

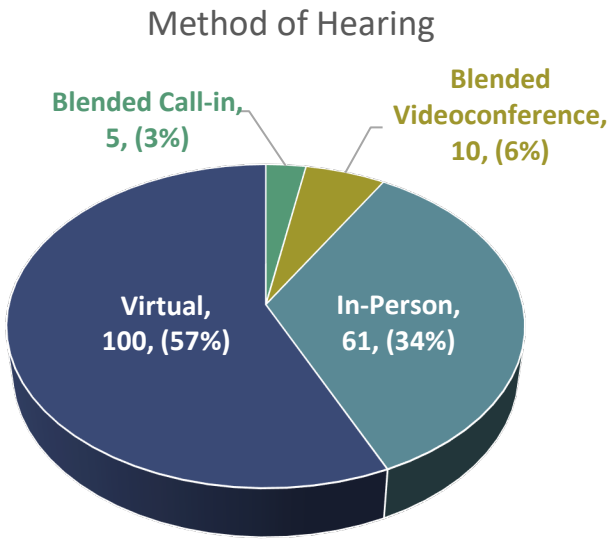
Appeal Path

Of the 476 appeals and applications decided in the third quarter of 2026, 32% (151) were decided after convening an oral hearing and 68% (325) after consideration of written submissions.



Hearings

During the third quarter of 2026, WCAT held 176 oral hearings; 61 were held fully in person, 5 were held by blended call-in[4]; 10 were held by blended videoconference[5], and 100 were held fully virtually.



[4] Blended call-in includes hearings where parties participated in person and phone call.

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

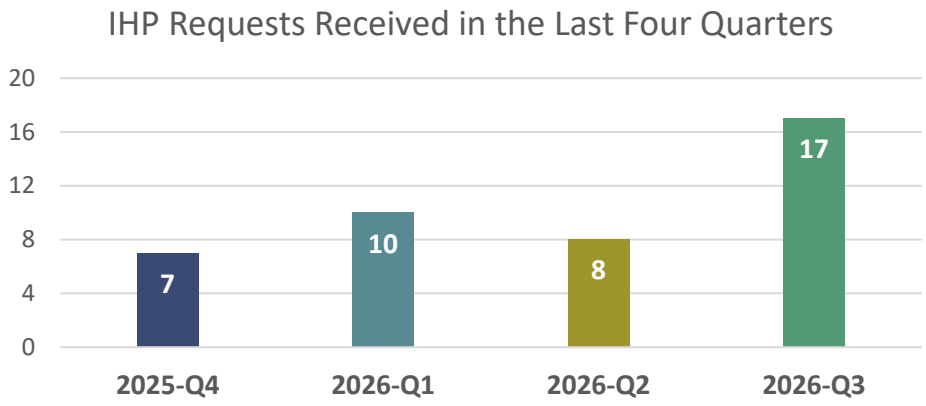
Independent Health Professionals

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 for the quarter was 28. In the third quarter of 2026, WCAT received 17 new requests from parties to an IHP: 16 requests were from the worker and one from the employer.



WCAT decided 14 IHP requests in the third quarter of 2026: 13 of these decided requests were made by the appellant worker and one by the respondent employer.

Out of the 14 IHP requests decided in the third quarter of 2026, 2 were allowed and 12 were denied.

In the third quarter of 2026, the IHP process was commenced in 12 appeals: 11 were initiated by the WCAT vice chair.