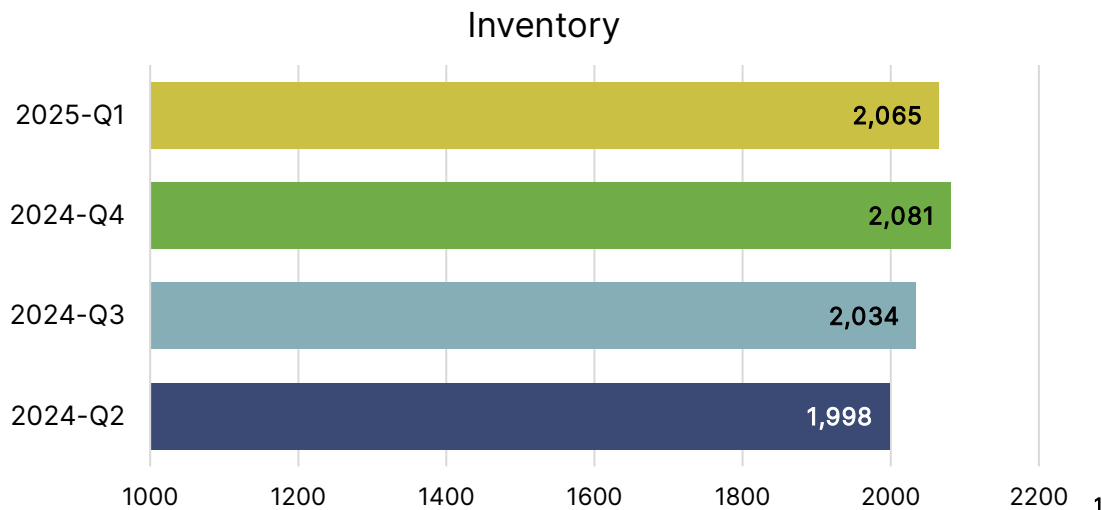


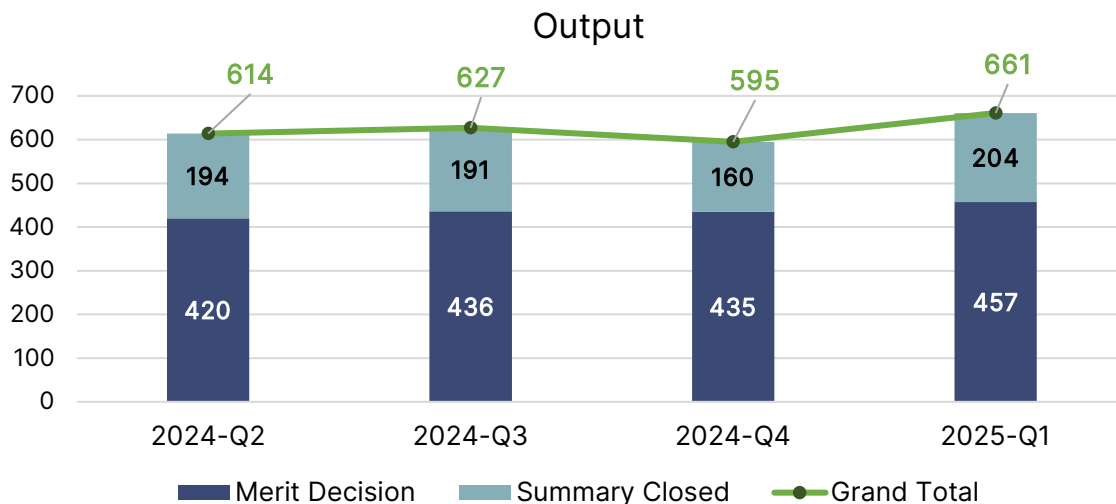
Inventory

As of March 31, 2025, our total active inventory was 2,065 appeals. Most appeals are compensation appeals from the Review Division of the Workers' Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC).



Output

During the first quarter of 2025, we made decisions on the merits of 457 appeals and applications² and made summary decisions on a further 204 appeals that were rejected, dismissed, withdrawn, or suspended.



1, 3

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

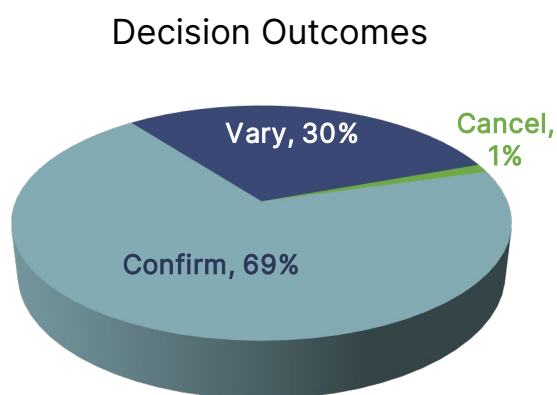
² These include 439 Merit decisions, 14 Certification to Court, and four Reconsideration decisions.

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](#).

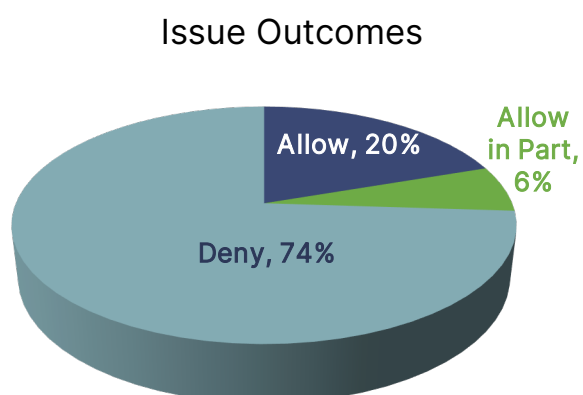
Appeal Outcomes

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 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 first quarter of 2025, we decided 607 issues on 439 merit appeals. The outcomes related to issues is the second pie chart below.

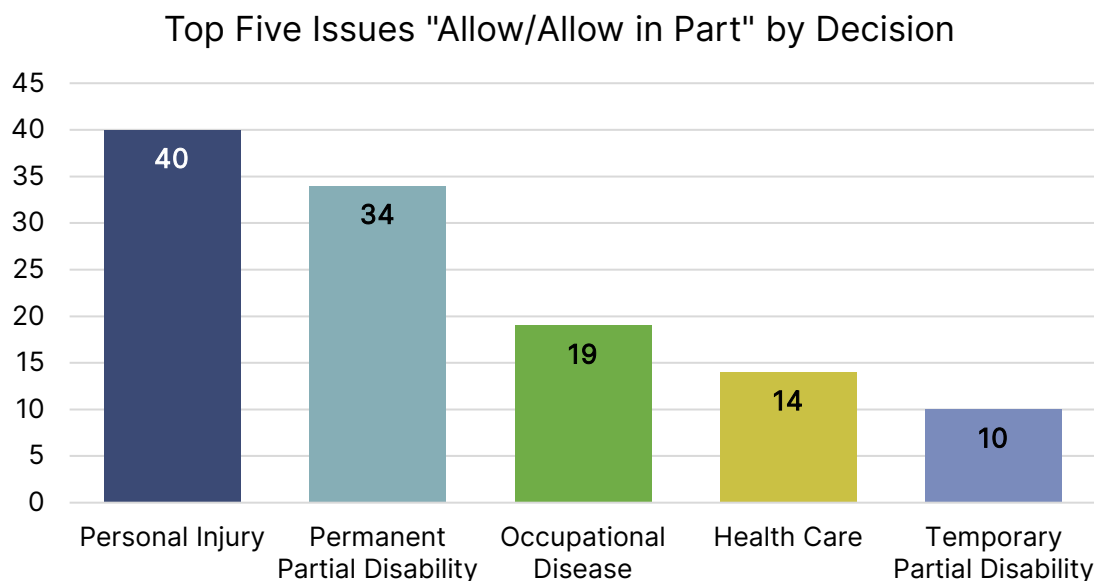


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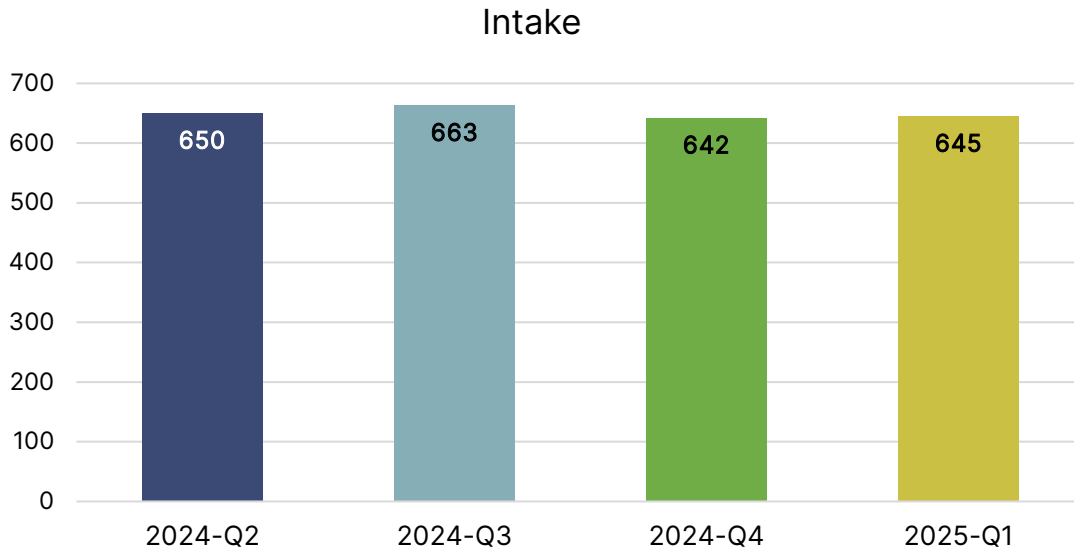
The top five issues where WCAT allowed an appeal or allowed it in part are displayed in the bar chart below.



1

Intake

During the first quarter of 2025, WCAT received 645 new appeals and applications. 90% arose from decisions of WorkSafeBC review officers and 10% were direct appeals and applications.



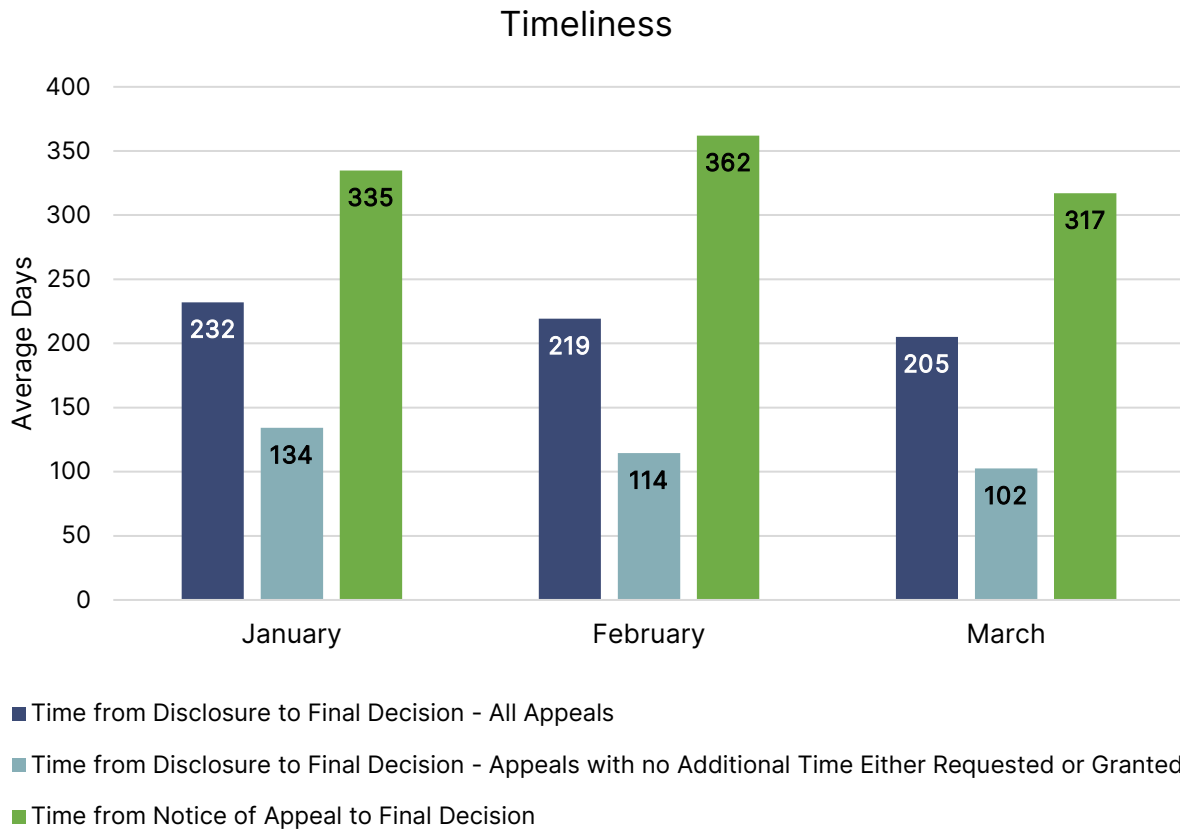
1

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 457 appeals and applications decided in the first quarter of 2025, 137 (30%) were decided after convening an oral hearing and 320 (70%) after consideration of written submissions.

Hearings

During the first quarter of 2025, WCAT held 102 oral hearings; 25 were held fully in person, one was held by blended call-in⁴; four were held by blended videoconference⁵, and 72 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

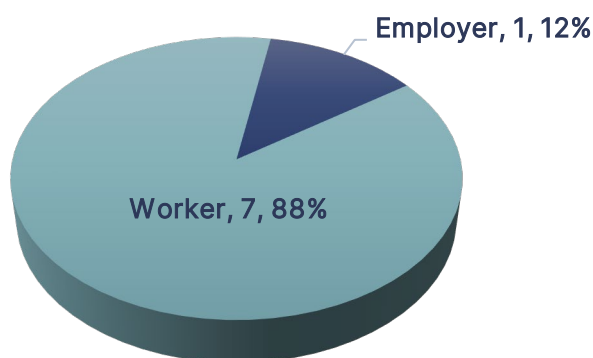
The *Workers Compensation Amendment Act (No. 2), 2022* was amended in 2022 to permit an employer, worker, or dependant of a deceased worker to make a written request that a WCAT panel retain a health professional to provide independent assistance or advice in an appeal. This amendment came into force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

The WCAT panel 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 panel determines that the independent assistance or advice would assist in reaching a decision on the appeal.

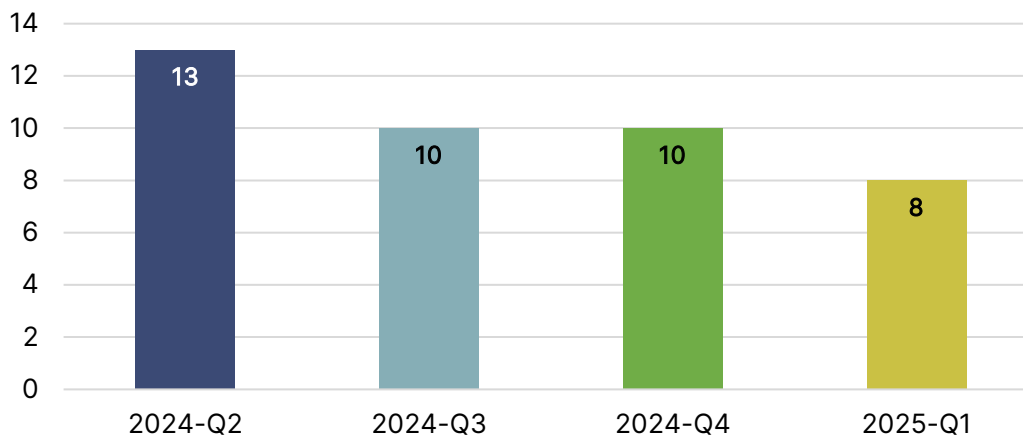
In addition to parties requesting IHPs, the panel may determine that independent assistance or advice would assist in reaching a decision on the appeal and commence the IHP process on their own initiative.

The number of IHP requests at the beginning of the year was 28. In the first quarter of 2025, WCAT received eight new requests from parties to an IHP.

New IHP Requests

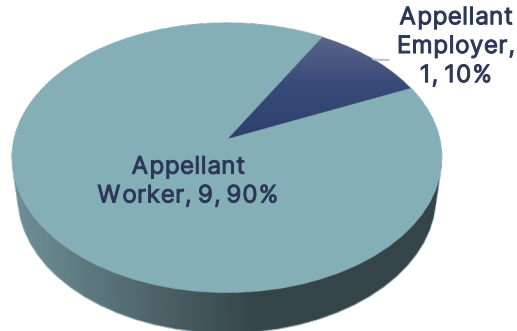


IHP Requests Received in Last Four Quarters



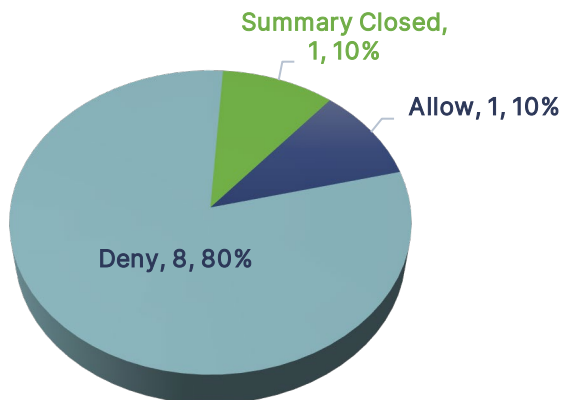
Ten requests were decided by WCAT in the first quarter of 2025. The chart below shows who made the IHP request for these decided requests.

Decided IHP Requestors



Out of the ten IHP requests decided in the first quarter of 2025, one request was allowed, eight requests were denied, and one request was summarily closed (appeal withdrawn).

IHP Request Outcomes



In the first quarter of 2025, the IHP process was commenced in 11 appeals. The majority of these were initiated by the WCAT panel.

IHP Initiations

