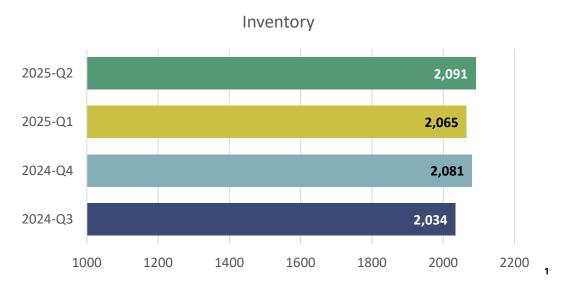
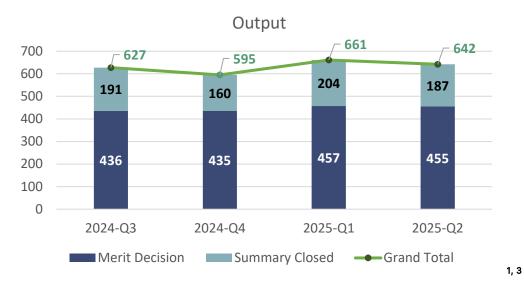
### Inventory

As of June 30, 2025, our total active inventory was 2,091 appeals. Most appeals are compensation appeals from the Review Division of the Workers' Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC).



## Output

During the second quarter of 2025, we made decisions on the merits of 455 appeals and applications<sup>2</sup> and made summary decisions on a further 187 appeals that were rejected, dismissed, withdrawn, or suspended.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Current data corrections may result in changes to previous data.

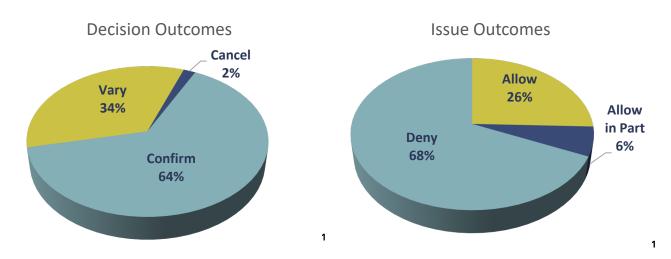
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> These include 442 merit, 7 certification to court, and 6 reconsideration decisions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Summary decisions are appeals that are closed or dismissed without a full hearing for a variety of reasons. For further reference, please see <u>Get a final decision</u>.

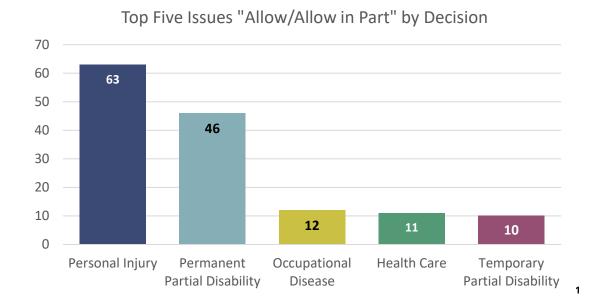
## **Appeal Outcomes**

When the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal (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 second quarter of 2025, we decided 626 issues on 442 merit appeals. The outcomes related to issues is the second pie chart below.

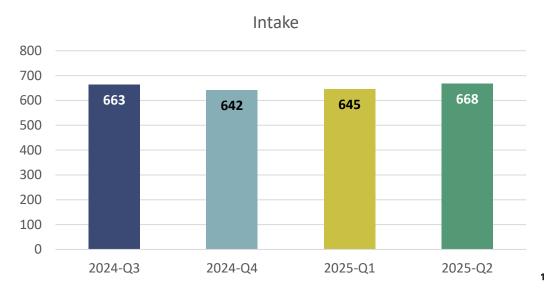


The top five issues where WCAT allowed an appeal or allowed it in part are displayed in the bar chart below.



#### Intake

During the second quarter of 2025, WCAT received 668 new appeals and applications. 92.5% arose from decisions of WorkSafeBC review officers and 7.5% were direct appeals and applications.

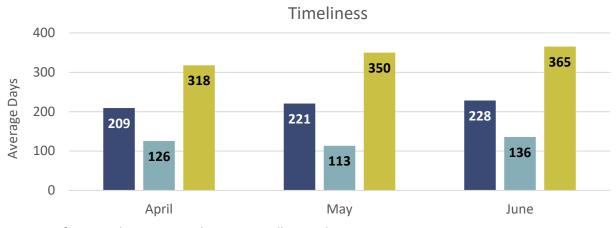


#### Time to Decision

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).

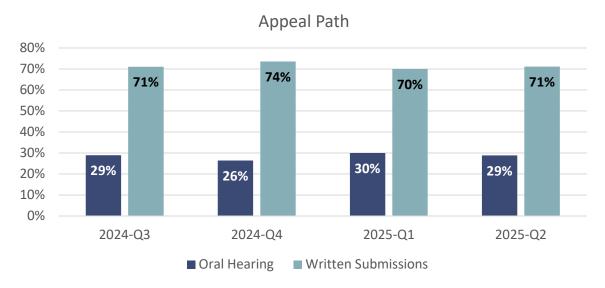
In addition to tracking the time from receipt of disclosure to final decision, WCAT also monitors the time from receipt of a Notice of Appeal to final decision.



- Time from Disclosure to Final Decision All Appeals
- Time from Disclosure to Final Decision Appeals with no Additional Time Either Requested or Granted
- Time from Notice of Appeal to Final Decision

## **Appeal Path**

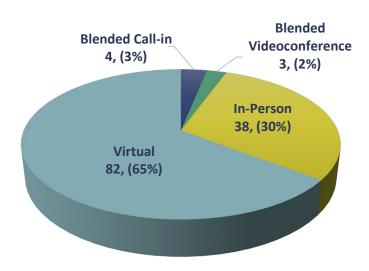
Of the 455 appeals decided in the second quarter of 2025, 131 (29%) were decided after convening an oral hearing and 323 (71%) after consideration of written submissions.



## Hearings

During the second quarter of 2025, WCAT held 127 oral hearings; 38 were held fully in person, 4 were held by blended call-in<sup>4</sup>; 3 were held by blended videoconference<sup>5</sup>, and 82 were held fully virtually.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Blended call-in includes hearings where parties participated in person and phone call.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

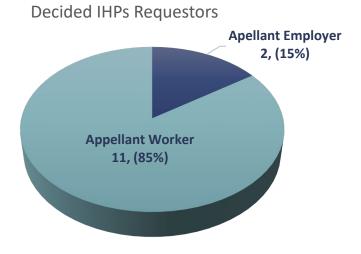
In addition to parties requesting IHPs, the panel may determine that independent assistance or advice would assist in reaching a decision on the appeal and commence the IHP process on their own initiative.

The IHP inventory at the beginning for this quarter was 28. In the second quarter of 2025, WCAT received 12 new requests for an IHP and all requests were made by the worker.



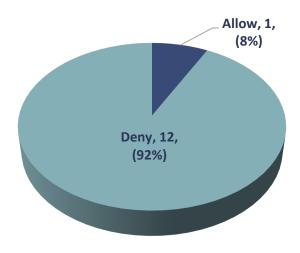
**IHP Requests Received - Last Four Quarters** 

In the second quarter of 2025, 13 IHP requests were decided by WCAT panels. The chart below shows who made the IHP request for these decided requests.



Out of the 13 IHP requests decided in the second quarter of 2025, one was allowed and 12 were denied.

**IHP Request Outcomes** 



In the second quarter of 2025, the IHP process was commenced in 8 appeals. All were initiated by the WCAT panel.

IHP Initiations - Last Four Quarters

