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Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

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<https://www.mn.gov/workcomp/>

AT A GLANCE

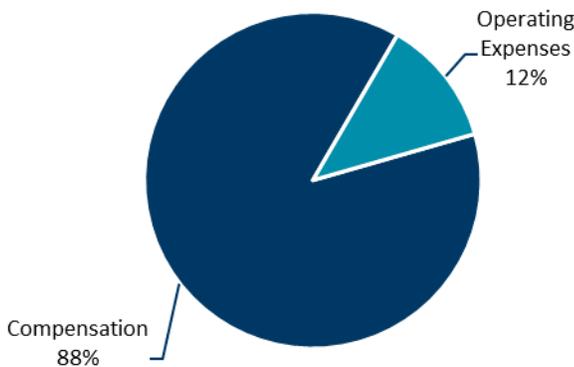
- Five appellate judges, who sit as panels of three or five, five staff attorneys, and administrative staff.
- The WCCA budget is 100% funded by the Workers Compensation Fund.
- We review workers' compensation appeals from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), the Department of Labor & Industry (DLI) and the Union Workers' Compensation Arbitration.
- We also decide petitions to reopen workers' compensation settlements and awards of benefits.
- Our website provides the public with information, rules, and a searchable archive of workers' compensation appellate decisions.
- Appeals from our decisions proceed directly to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

PURPOSE

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals is a highly specialized appellate court. Its mission is to provide accessible, fair, and timely review of disputed legal and factual issues which affect workers' compensation wage loss, medical benefits, and rehabilitation benefits.

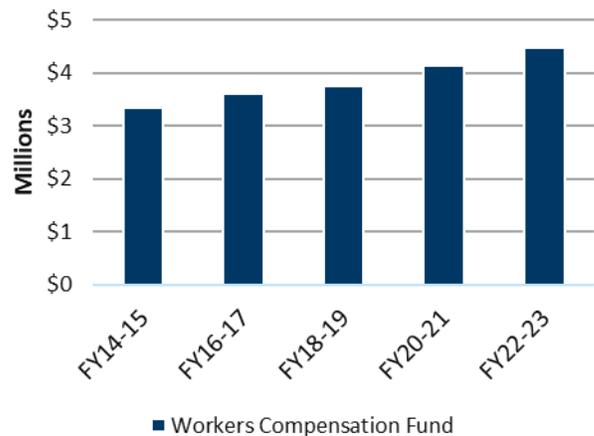
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

STRATEGIES

We provide accessible, fair, and timely review of disputes before us by:

- Promptly reviewing the evidentiary record created by the initial decision-making body;
- Integrating our case management, calendaring, and document filing systems with DLI through the CAMPUS system;
- Coordinating disparate technologies between OAH and the Minnesota Supreme Court;
- Insuring access by all parties to the case management systems;
- Presiding over oral arguments;
- Conducting necessary legal research;

- Deciding the issues on appeal;
- Issuing appropriate written orders, decisions, and memoranda; and
- Promptly preparing the record for review in cases appealed to the Minnesota Supreme Court.

RESULTS

We decide the disputes before us promptly and fairly, which:

- Ensures the timely and efficient delivery of benefits to injured workers at a reasonable cost to employers;
- Maintains economic stability for injured workers and their families;
- Provides for appropriate medical treatment of work-related illnesses and injuries;
- Supports a competitive business climate for Minnesota employers by reducing the amount of litigation; and
- Supports employers in creating safe and healthy work environments.

Our written decisions inform the parties and the public of the basis for the court’s decisions and create a consistent body of law interpreting and applying the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Act. Our decisions are currently provided to the public at: <https://mn.gov/workcomp/decisions/>, distributed to the agency listserv, and available through legal databases such as Westlaw.

Performance Data

Measure Name	Measure Type	Measure Data Source	Historical Trend	Most Recent Data
Affected parties	Quantity	Case statistics from case management database.	Unavailable. This measure was first initiated in FY 2023	FY 2023: 461
Cases processed	Quantity	Case statistics from case management database.	Slightly increased from FY 2022 (51 cases)	FY 2023: 54
Average number of days between case assignment and issuance of decision	Quality/Result	Case statistics from case management database.	Faster case resolution time than FY 2022 (69 days)	FY 2023: 62

The legal authority for the Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals is provided by Minn. Stat. Chapters 175A and 176 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=175A>; <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=176>).

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base	
					FY26	FY27
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
2830 - Workers Compensation	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
Total	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
Biennial Change				680		(20)
Biennial % Change				15		(0)
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>						
Workers Compensation Court of Appeals	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
Total	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>						
Compensation	1,957	1,972	2,123	2,339	2,201	2,289
Operating Expenses	261	273	275	406	361	273
Other Financial Transaction	0	2	2	1	1	1
Total	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
<u>Full-Time Equivalent</u>						
	12.57	12.73	11.81	13.00	13.00	12.00

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Agency Financing by Fund

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base	
					FY26	FY27
2830 - Workers Compensation						
Balance Forward In		70		183		
Direct Appropriation	2,283	2,283	2,583	2,563	2,563	2,563
Cancellations		105				
Balance Forward Out	65		183			
Expenditures	2,218	2,248	2,400	2,746	2,563	2,563
Biennial Change in Expenditures				680		(20)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				15		(0)
Full-Time Equivalents	12.57	12.73	11.81	13.00	13.00	12.00

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Agency Change Summary

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 2830 - Workers Compensation				
FY2025 Appropriations	2,563	2,563	2,563	5,126
Forecast Base	2,563	2,563	2,563	5,126