

## **Annual Claims Data for California's Paid Family Leave and Disability Insurance**

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### **Issue**

This report presents data on paid family leave and disability insurance claims in California since 2004. More specifically, it shows the annual number of claims paid and their average duration.

### **Summary**

In general, a paid family and medical leave program provides partial wage replacement benefits to eligible employees who take leave from employment due to their own serious health conditions, to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or to bond with a newly born or placed child. California provides these types of benefits through two separate programs: its Disability Insurance (DI) program, which provides benefits for an employee's own illness or injury, and its Paid Family Leave (PFL) [program](#), which provides benefits for employees to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a new child.

In the PFL program, the number of annual claims paid has steadily grown from 147,342 in 2005 (the program's first full year in operation) to 269,988 in 2018 (the last year with complete data). The average PFL benefit duration, however, has steadily remained between five and 5.5 weeks. The large majority (87%-90%) of PFL claims during this period were for bonding with a new child.

Annual claims paid in the DI program have fluctuated more over these years, peaking at 678,567 in 2008, and reaching a low of 619,607 in 2012. And in 2018, there were roughly 10,000 fewer claims paid than in 2004. Although average DI benefit duration has also varied each year, the average duration in 2018 (about 16 weeks) was roughly one week longer than it was in 2004.

## California Paid Family Leave and Disability Insurance Data

California's PFL program provides partial pay to employees who need to take time off from work to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a new child entering the family through birth, adoption, or foster care placement. It does not provide benefits to employees who need to take time off for their own non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy. Instead, the state's disability insurance (DI) program provides benefits to employees under these circumstances. Thus, data regarding paid family and medical leave claims in the state are separated between the two programs.

The annual data in the tables below is compiled from monthly data available from the state's [Employment Development Department](#), which administers both programs.

### *PFL Claims Data*

Table 1 shows the annual number of PFL claims paid and their average duration each year since 2004 (through October 2019). It includes a breakdown of whether the claims were for bonding with a new child or to care for a family member.

**Table 1: California Paid Family Leave Claims Paid and Average Benefit Duration, 2004-2019**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Bonding Claims Paid</i>	<i>Care Claims Paid</i>	<i>Total PFL Claims Paid</i>	<i>Average PFL Benefit Duration (weeks)</i>
<b>2019</b> (through October)	202,608 (87%)	30,161 (13%)	232,769	5.49
<b>2018</b>	235,290 (87%)	34,698 (13%)	269,988	5.50
<b>2017</b>	217,146 (89%)	27,707 (11%)	244,853	5.38
<b>2016</b>	213,438 (88%)	28,384 (12%)	241,822	5.35
<b>2015</b>	200,431 (89%)	24,732 (11%)	225,163	5.38
<b>2014</b>	200,674 (89%)	24,578 (11%)	225,252	5.28
<b>2013</b>	181,694 (89%)	22,038 (11%)	203,732	5.35
<b>2012</b>	179,665 (89%)	22,940 (11%)	202,494	5.34
<b>2011</b>	174,105 (89%)	21,689 (11%)	195,794	5.35

**Table 1 (continued)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bonding Claims Paid</b>	<b>Care Claims Paid</b>	<b>Total PFL Claims Paid</b>	<b>Average PFL Benefit Duration (weeks)</b>
<b>2010</b>	170,574 (89%)	20,456 (11%)	191,030	5.28
<b>2009</b>	161,391 (90%)	17,251 (10%)	178,642	5.45
<b>2008</b>	170,603 (90%)	19,627 (10%)	190,230	5.33
<b>2007</b>	155,254 (89%)	18,629 (11%)	173,845	5.37
<b>2006</b>	143,567 (89%)	17,138 (11%)	160,705	5.32
<b>2005</b>	130,933 (89%)	16,409 (11%)	147,342	5.38
<b>2004</b> (July – Dec.)	59,427 (89%)*	7,995 (12%)*	67,048*	5.12

Source: <https://data.edd.ca.gov/widgets/r95e-fvkm>

\*Total claims paid for 2004 does not equal the sum of bonding and care claims

## ***DI Claims Data***

Table 2 show the annual number of claims paid and their average duration each year under the state's disability insurance program since 2004.

**Table 2: California Disability Insurance Program Claims Paid and Average Benefit Duration, 2004-2019**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total DI Claims Paid</b>	<b>Average DI Benefit Duration (weeks)</b>
<b>2019</b> (through October)	563,683	16.31
<b>2018</b>	654,436	16.16
<b>2017</b>	627,548	16.30
<b>2016</b>	648,915	15.91
<b>2015</b>	635,419	16.08
<b>2014</b>	635,532	15.97
<b>2013</b>	637,626	15.37
<b>2012</b>	619,607	16.10
<b>2011</b>	648,847	15.67
<b>2010</b>	660,158	15.64

**Table 2 (continued)**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total DI Claims Paid</i>	<i>Average DI Benefit Duration (weeks)</i>
<b>2009</b>	655,692	15.67
<b>2008</b>	678,567	14.86
<b>2007</b>	671,285	14.39
<b>2006</b>	653,478	14.36
<b>2005</b>	650,797	14.56
<b>2004</b>	664,351	14.96

Source: <https://data.edd.ca.gov/Disability-Insurance/Disability-Insurance-DI-Monthly-Data/29jg-ip7e>

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