



# Workers' Benefit Fund

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# History of Workers' Benefit Fund

- Before the WBF, four dedicated reserves in Consumer and Business Services fund
- HB 2348 (1993) allowed DCBS to set assessment rates by rule
- HB 2044 (1995)
  - Established WBF & transferred reserve balances into WBF
  - WBF became funding source for all reserve programs
  - Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) made responsible for reporting to DCBS director and Legislature on operations of WBF programs
- Purpose of 1993 and 1995 reforms

# Workers' Benefit Fund overview

- Plays a critical role in maintaining Oregon's balanced workers' compensation system
- Funds return-to-work programs
- Provides increased benefits over time for workers who are permanently and totally disabled
- Gives benefits to families of workers who die from workplace injuries or diseases
- Funded by a cents-per-hour assessment on workers, employers

# WBF: What it is used for (1 of 3)

- **Retroactive Program** – Ensures workers or their beneficiaries are being paid at current benefit levels for like injuries
- **Reemployment Assistance Program** – Encourages the return to work of injured workers
  - **Employer-at-Injury Program** – Incentivizes early return to work
  - **Preferred Worker Program** – Helps permanently disabled injured workers find and retain employment

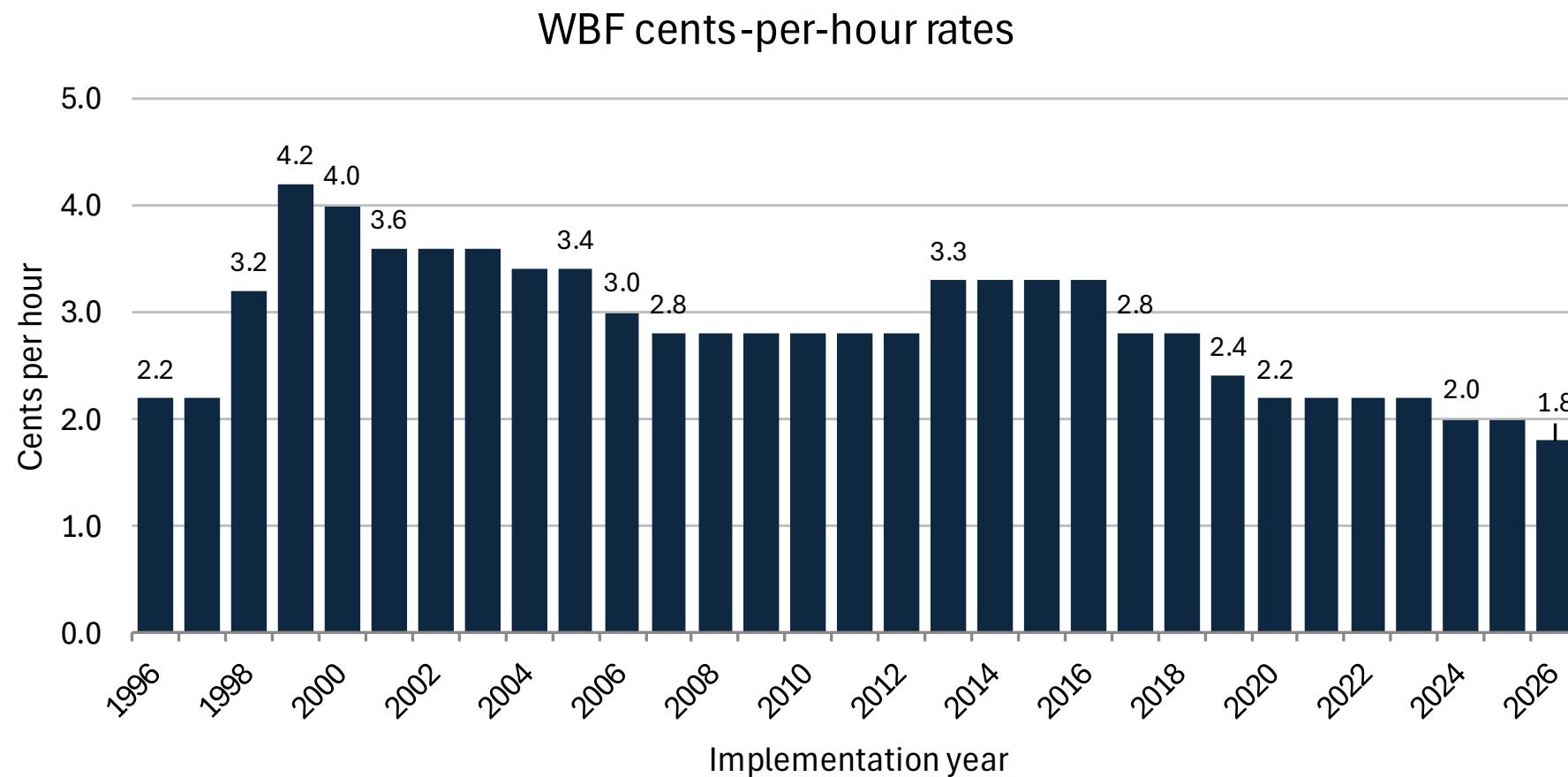
# WBF: What it is used for (2 of 3)

- **Reopened Claims Program** – Provides temporary disability benefits to workers whose claim is reopened after their aggravation rights have expired
- **Workers With Disabilities Program** – Encouraged the employment of disabled workers, whether their impairment was congenital or due to an injury or disease
- **SB 1558 Claim Payments** – Provides benefits to workers employed by members of decertified self-insured employer groups whose security has been exhausted

# WBF: What it is used for (3 of 3)

- **Supplement Disability Benefits** – Provides wage replacement for workers with multiple jobs
- **Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences of OHSU** – Funding for research dedicated to health and safety in the workforce
- **Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) Investigations** – Pays BOLI for investigating injured worker discrimination complaints
- **Noncomplying employer (NCE) claims costs** – reimbursed from a subaccount of the WBF funded by recoveries from NCEs

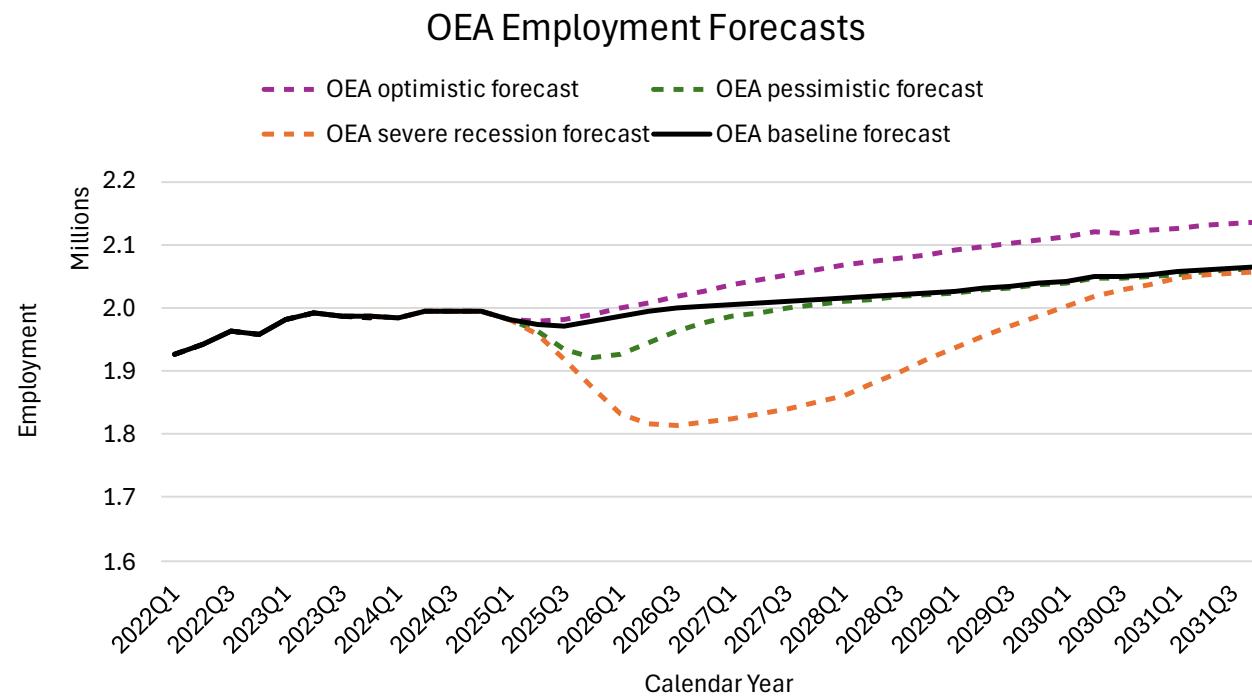
# History of WBF rate



# Setting the rate: Revenue assumptions

1. Actual revenue data from quarterly financial statements through June
2. The employment forecasts from the preliminary September OEA economic forecast
3. Estimate of average annual number of hours worked.
4. Updated estimates of the recoveries for the Non-Complying Employer (NCE) Program
5. Estimates of investment income based on latest information from the State Treasurer's Office
6. Fines, penalties, other misc. revenue based on recent activity

# Setting the rate: Revenue assumptions



## Revenue Assumptions with Actual Revenue as of June 2025

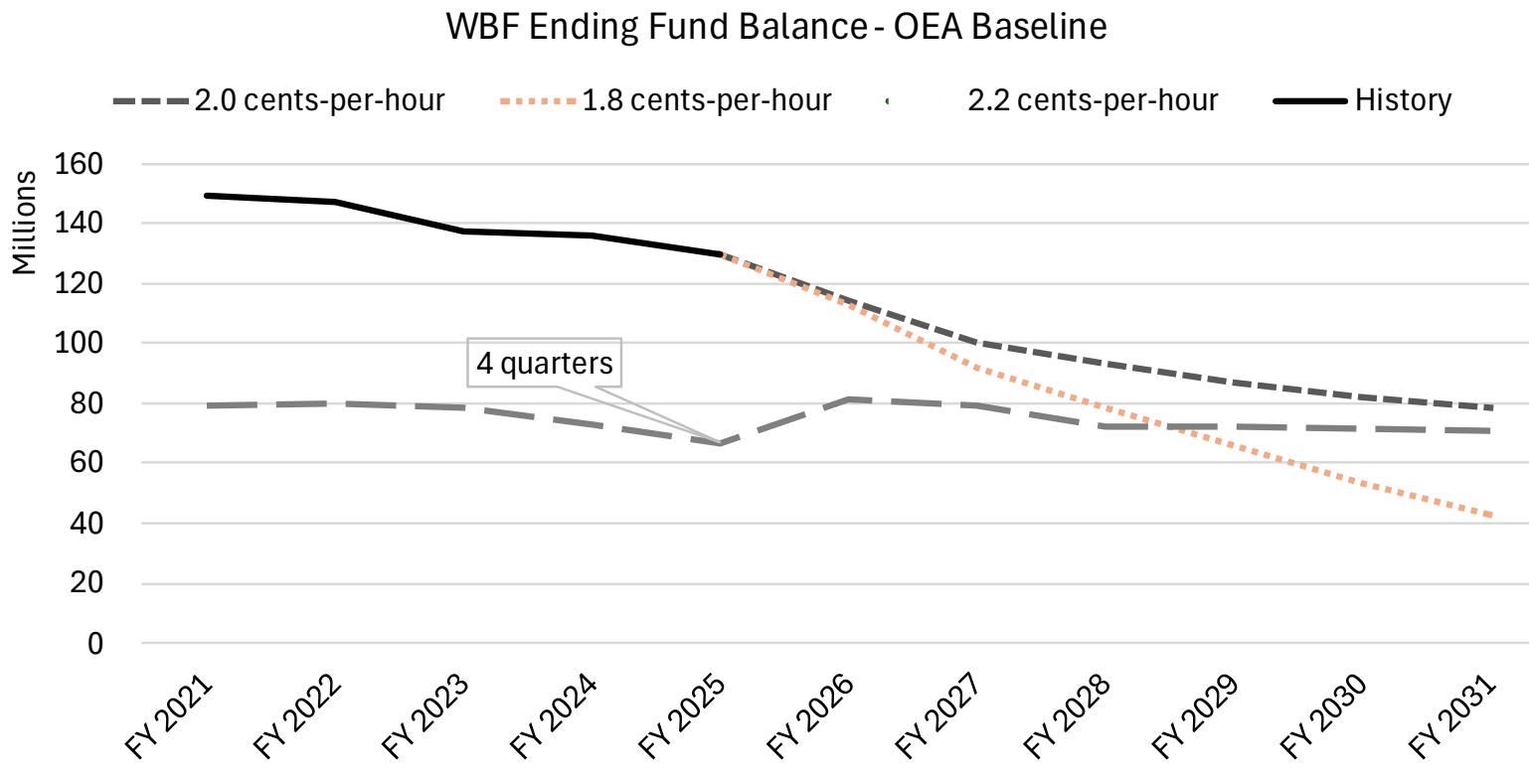
Biennium FY	2023-2025		2025-2027		2027-2029		2029-2031	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
<b>Revenue:</b>								
Assessments	67,861,600	62,271,886	61,346,974	57,233,294	57,563,439	57,888,222	58,567,509	59,825,179
Investment Income	1,576,017	2,696,318	3,317,050	2,841,355	2,613,207	2,500,904	2,357,796	2,233,529
Fines and Penalties	939,503	1,636,453	889,203	889,203	889,203	889,203	889,203	889,203
Other Income	648,383	907,281	477,941	477,941	477,941	477,941	477,941	477,941
<b>Total Revenue Excluding NCE</b>	\$71,025,503	\$67,511,938	\$66,031,168	\$61,441,794	\$61,543,790	\$61,756,270	\$62,292,449	\$63,425,852

From OEA September 2025 forecast using June 2025 data

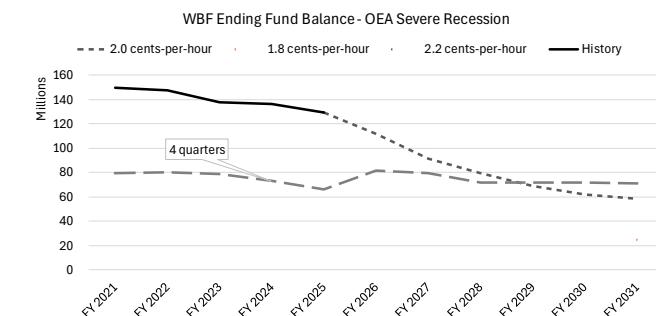
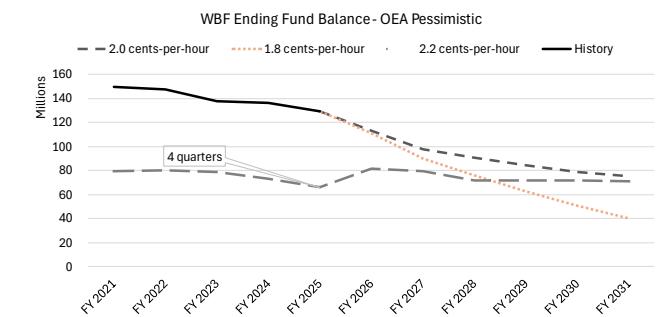
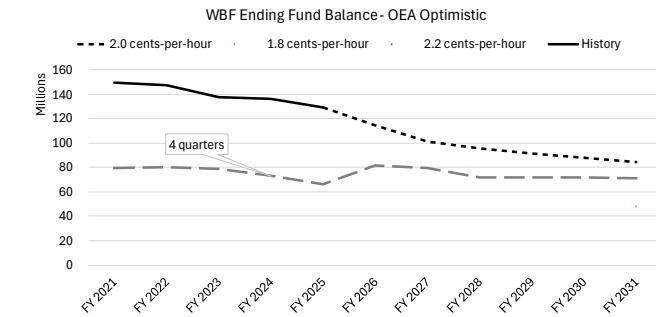
# Setting the rate: Expenditure assumptions

1. Actual expenditure and transfer data
2. Updated forecasts of all WBF program expenditures
3. Cost-of-living-adjustment estimates for WCD and OOW staff administering WBF programs
4. Projected payments & expenditures for all WBF programs
5. Updated estimates of the transfers from the Premium Assessment Operating Account (PAOA) for the NCE Program expenditures.

# Setting the WBF rate



Forecast published September 2025 using June 2025 data





# Questions?