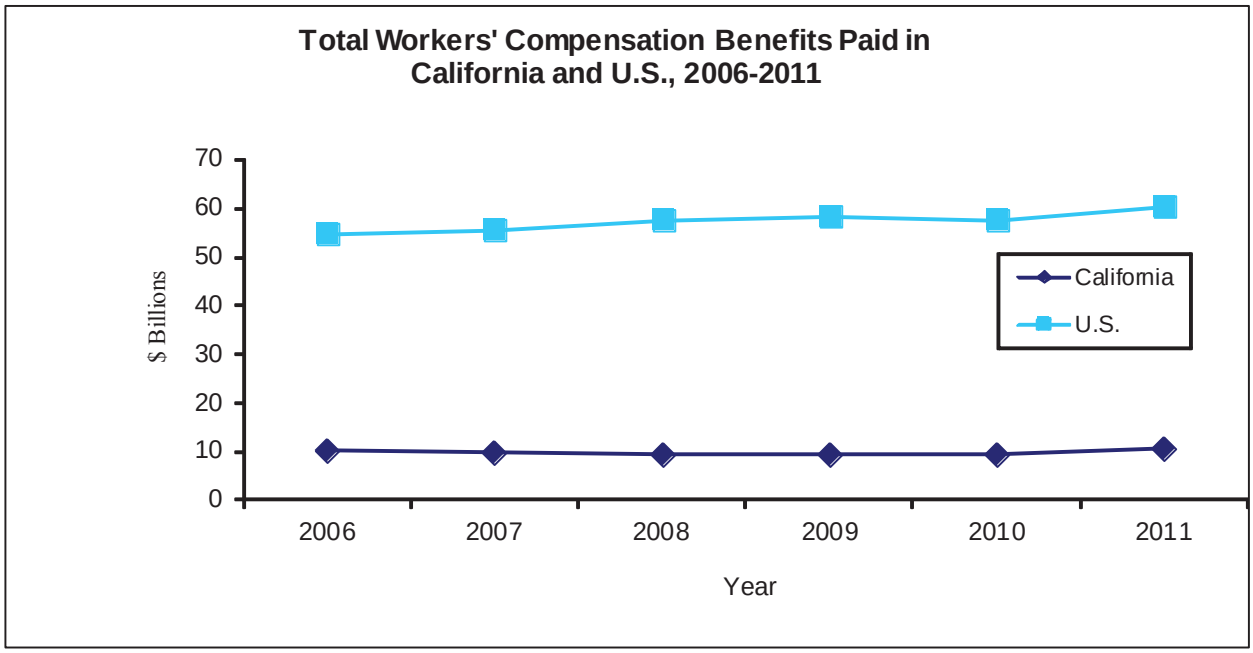
Workers' Compensation Awards

State workers' compensation programs were developed to provide guaranteed compensation for work-related injuries or illnesses while limiting the liability exposure of employers. Workers' compensation provides benefits to partially replace lost wages, pay for medical expenses associated with an injury or illness, and provide survivor benefits in the case of a death. The total dollar amount of benefits paid annually is calculated using data from the National Academy of Social Insurance, which also provides the number of workers covered by workers' compensation. This Indicator also reports the average amount paid per worker if the total cost is averaged over all workers covered by the workers' compensation system. While the amount of benefits paid helps define the direct financial cost of work-related injuries and illnesses, it does not reflect their true burden. Indirect costs to the employer and worker are not taken into account. In addition, some workers who are eligible for benefits do not file. Finally, several types of workers may not be covered by state workers' compensation systems, including the self-employed, domestic workers, federal employees, and railroad, longshore, and maritime workers.



Data Source: National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)

Total Workers' Compensation Benefits Paid and Average per Covered Worker for California and U.S., 2006-2011							
Year	**California**						**U.S.**
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2011**
Total Amount of Workers' Compensation Benefits Paid in Billions	$10.1	$9.9	$9.4	$9.3	$9.4	$10.5	$60.2
Average Amount of Workers' Compensation Benefits Paid per Covered Worker[1]	$665	$644	$618	$648	$663	$732	$478

[1] All workers in the state who are eligible for compensation should they sustain work-related injuries or illnesses are considered "covered" workers.

Data Source: National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)