Table 2The Statewide Backlog of Wage Claims Has Increased During the Previous Six Fiscal Years

	FISCAL YEAR					
WAGE CLAIM ADJUDICATION STATEWIDE	2017–18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021–22	2022-23
Backlog at the Beginning of the Year*	18,000	21,000	24,000	28,000	28,000	32,000
New Claims Received During the Year	31,000	29,000	30,000	15,000	29,000	39,000
Total Claims Open During the Year [†]	49,000	51,000	54,000	43,000	57,000	71,000
Claims Closed During the Year	27,000	27,000	25,000	21,000	18,000	24,000
Claims Open at the End of the Year	22,000	24,000	29,000	22,000	39,000	47,000

Source: Analysis of LCO wage claim data. Amounts rounded to nearest thousand.

Note: As <u>Appendix B</u> discusses, we found the LCO's data to be of undetermined reliability; however, the data were the best available source of information on wage claims.

^{*} This includes all claims that were not closed at the end of the prior fiscal year and were open for more than 120 days. Therefore, this number may differ from the claims that were open at the end of the prior year, which includes all claims that were open regardless of when they were received.

[†] Totals may not match the sum of individual categories due to rounding.