

Figure 1: Bail Transactions & Forfeitures in California
 Source: California Department of Insurance "Bail Basics."

BAIL TRANSACTIONS IN CALIFORNIA

In 2014, CDI conducted a limited exam to determine bail activity in the State of California. The exam focused on calendar years 2011, 2012 and 2013 and identified 17 Sureties conducting bail in California. There are roughly 3200 licensed Bail Agents in CA.

- During the 3 year period, an average of 205,000 bail bonds were executed per year.
- The Face Value of Bail Bonds written during the exam period averaged \$4,440,493,079
- 13 of the 17 Sureties reported that Bail Agents/Bail Agencies collected \$924,654,956 in total gross bail bond premium (2011-2013), which amounted to an average of \$308,218,318 collected per year. 4 Sureties could not provide the total gross amount collected.
- Bail Agents/Bail Agencies remitted \$87,221,865 to their respective Surety during the same 3 year period, which is an average of \$29,073,955 per year.

	2011	2012	2013
*TOTAL BONDS WRITTEN	229,000	212,000	176,000
TOTAL FACE VALUE OF BAIL BONDS WRITTEN	\$4,659,254,966	\$4,582,076,365	\$4,080,147,907
*8% PREMIUM – ESTIMATED CONSUMER COST TO PURCHASE BAIL BOND (collected by BAIL AGENT)	\$372,740,397	\$366,566,109	\$326,411,832
NET PREMIUM REMITTED TO SURETIES	\$30,104,877	\$29,841,459	\$27,275,529
*DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PREMIUMS COLLECTED AND RETAINED BY BAIL AGENTS (@8%) AND AMOUNT REMITTED TO SURETY	\$342,635,520	\$336,724,650	\$299,136,303

SURETY FORFEITURE¹ ANALYSIS

Surety #9 (For Period January 2012 through December 2013)

2012 Forfeitures	2013 Forfeitures	2012-2013 (32) Forfeiture Payments paid by Bail Agents	2012-2013 (16) Forfeiture Payments paid by BUF (Build Up Fund)	2012-2013 (0) Forfeiture Payments paid by Surety	2012-2013 Total Gross Premium Charged/Collected by Agents	2012-2013 Total Forfeiture Payments (Agent Paid and BUF Paid)
1,478	1,583	\$265,360	\$322,735	\$0	\$51,889,943	\$588,095

Surety #12² (For Period January 2012 through December 2013)

2012 Forfeitures	2013 Forfeitures	2012-2013 (19) Forfeiture Payments paid by Bail Agents	2012-2013 (0) Forfeiture Payments paid by BUF (Build Up Fund)	2012-2013 (0) Forfeiture Payments paid by Surety	2012-2013 Total Gross Premium Charged/Collected by Agents	2012-2013 Total Forfeiture Payments (Agent Paid and BUF Paid)
1,085	1,162	\$282,484	\$0	\$0	\$51,178,376	\$282,484

¹ Forfeiture payment analysis does not consider collateral taken by Bail Agent at time of transaction; Collateral includes jewelry, cash, vehicle titles and property liens to mitigate risk for potential bail forfeiture payment(s); If proper underwriting occurs, the forfeiture payment is mitigated by the holding of collateral;

² Surety 12 did not provide breakdown of whether forfeiture payment was from Agent, BUF or Surety; Industry standard is that Surety is indemnified by Agent;