

TSA takes brief possession of each bag to screen it for explosives electronically and then turns it over to the airlines where it is handled by numerous people on its way to and from the aircraft. TSA investigates every claim received for missing items. However, due to improved processes such as increased employee supervision and more CCTV cameras in TSA baggage areas, today TSA provides full or partial payment for approximately 23% of all claims. TSA's claims data does not paint an accurate picture of how often theft occurs at a particular airport given the loss could have occurred at the departure, connecting or arriving airport. And, more importantly, a claim does not equal an act of theft on TSA's part. Keep in mind, TSA screens more than 2 million passengers and approximately 2.5 million pieces of baggage per day with claims filed for less than .002% of total baggage screened or 1 claim for every 50,000 bags screened.

--Sari Koshetz
TSA Spokesperson