

Dept. of Workforce Development: Release information on unemployment data

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MADISON - The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released unemployment data from March 15 to October 3, 2020, revealing that 91.6% of the 7.1 million weekly Unemployment Insurance claims that have been filed since March 15th, 2020, have been processed.

Unemployment Insurance is a joint state-federal program that provides benefits to eligible workers. Each state administers a separate UI program with state-specific laws and rules, but states must also follow the same guidelines established by federal law. Any answer given on a claim raising a question regarding a person's eligibility must be fully investigated before benefits may be paid; this is referred to as the adjudication process.

Adjudication is the investigation and resolution of eligibility issues raised on unemployment insurance claims. Adjudication is a manual process that requires interested parties be provided due notice to respond to the eligibility issue. Eligibility issues arise from several places including the initial claim, weekly claim, employer contact, claimant contact, and tips from the public. Under normal conditions, adjudication typically takes 21 days to process.

Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits: If you are out of work through no fault of your own, and you have worked for a covered employer (an employer who pays UI tax) in the last 18 months, you may be eligible for and should apply for

regular UI benefits. Regular UI is available for up to 26 weeks (dependent upon an individual's specific situation).

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): A temporary program that provides up to 13 additional weeks of payments to individuals who have exhausted their regular UI benefits.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): If you are not eligible for regular UI, you may be eligible for PUA. This is a temporary federal program that provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not eligible for regular UI such as:

- Individuals who are self-employed;
- Certain independent contractors;
- Individuals with limited recent work history; and
- Other workers not covered by regular UI.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): A temporary emergency increase of \$600 per week in unemployment benefits. FPUC provided an additional payment to individuals who are collecting regular UI, PEUC, EB, or PUA. It was automatically added to the weekly benefit rate. FPUC benefits ended on July 25, 2020.

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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CLAIMS STATUS

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The information below is for March 15, 2020 - October 3, 2020.

Approximately 527,897 claimants have been paid over \$3.86 **billion** since March 15, 2020. The weekly Claims in Process in the table below represents approximately 80,429 unique claimants with around 130,367 issues requiring adjudication. A claimant could have one issue or many holding up one week or

many weeks.

CLAIMS STATUS

Weekly Claims Received* (includes all programs)	7,089,991
Weekly Claims in Process (includes claims awaiting wage verification, adjudication, etc.)	596,562 (8.41%)
Weekly Claims Resolved (paid + denied)	6,493,429 (91.59%)

**Weekly claims received are not a count of people filing claims.*

Weekly Claims March 15, 2020 - October 3, 2020

APPLICATION & CLAIM NUMBERS

Applications & Claims Submitted	Cumulative Since March 15, 2020	Submitted Week Ending October 3, 2020
Regular UI Initial Applications**	937,378	11,787
Regular UI Weekly Claims	6,033,692	110,791
PEUC Initial Applications	33,887	5,316
PUA Initial Applications	112,919	2,379

***Applications are not a count of people filing claims. Preliminary counts [updated daily](#).*

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BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Benefits Paid	Cumulative Since March 15, 2020
Total Benefits Paid	\$3,862,512,543
FPUC Benefits Paid	\$2,465,301,414
PUA Benefits Paid	\$128,312,818
PEUC Benefits Paid	\$51,799,212

OTHER DATA

UI Calls Received - week ending October 3, 2020 - 48,733

Average number of days from application to payment for regular UI - 25