

# N E W S R E L E A S E

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## Unemployment benefits paid during pandemic reach \$18.8 billion

*EDD answers common questions about new federal extension benefits and ID Alert process*

**Sacramento** – According to the latest data just released by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), an additional 307,075 claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) were processed last week with the EDD paying more than \$2.6 billion in benefit payments in the week ending May 23 alone. All told, approximately **5.4 million claims** have been processed and **\$18.8 billion in benefits** have been paid to Californians who've lost jobs or have had their hours reduced during the course of this historic pandemic.

The UI Data Dashboard below tracks the totals of regular UI as well as PUA claims since the surge in demand for assistance began in the week ending March 14, 2020.

### Unemployment Insurance (UI) Data Dashboard

Week Ending Date	Total Applications Submitted (Approx. UI Online applications received from unemployed workers) <sup>1</sup>			Total Claims Processed (Approx. applications processed by the EDD.) <sup>1,2</sup>			Total Benefits Paid (Approx. combination of first benefit payments and continued claim bi-weekly payments) <sup>3</sup>			Individuals Paid Benefits (Expressed as four-week rolling totals to account for different bi-weekly payment cycles) <sup>4</sup>		
	Reg. UI	PUA	Total	Reg. UI	PUA	Total	Reg. UI	PUA	Total	Reg. UI	PUA	Total
May 23 2020	138,259	110,155	248,414	212,343	94,732 <sup>1</sup>	307,075	\$1.8 billion	\$715 million	\$2.6 billion	3.4 million	517,000	3.9 <sup>5</sup> million
March 14 – May 16 <sup>7</sup>	4.0 million	687,000	4.7 million	4.5 million	547,000	5.1 million	\$14.3 billion	\$1.9 billion	\$16.2 billion	3.3 million	453,000	3.8 <sup>6</sup> million
<b>TOTAL for last 11 weeks<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>4.9 million</b>			<b>5.4 million</b>			<b>\$18.8 billion</b>			This information isn't meant to be totaled as it's a four-week rolling total.		

1. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) was released in California effective April 28, 2020.
2. Claims processed through UI Online, along with about 5% of claims that arrive via paper or phone. This accounts for claims received in the current week as well as in past weeks.
3. Includes \$600 federal stimulus payments EDD adds to each week of regular UI/PUA benefits. Regular UI benefits are paid out of California's UI Trust Fund with contributions from employers, PUA and \$600 federal stimulus payments are paid for by the federal government.
4. Four-week rolling totals accommodate for numerous variables that dictate what claimants receive benefits in any given bi-weekly period. Data excludes claimants were who fully employed, disqualified or had excessive earnings that would disqualify them for a week of benefits.
5. Four-week rolling total between week-ending May 2 and week-ending May 23, 2020.
6. Four-week rolling total between week-ending April 25 and week-ending May 16, 2020.
7. Rounded totals. Claims processed counts can be higher than submitted applications due to processing of applications submitted prior to Week Ending March 14.

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**New 13-week federal extension called Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) launches in phases**

The EDD initiated phase one of the PEUC roll-out on May 27. The department is now automatically reviewing regular UI claims in our system for those with a benefit year that started on or after June 2, 2019, and that have run out of all available benefits.

**How do I apply for the PEUC extension?**

If the EDD determines that:

- You have received **all available benefits** on your UI claim with **the benefit year that had not yet expired**; OR
- Your regular UI **claim had expired**, but you **do not have enough wage information** to qualify for a new regular UI claim; OR
- You had been **receiving PUA** benefits until the PEUC extension was implemented and are **now potentially eligible for the PEUC** extension

The EDD will **automatically file a PEUC extension** for you on your last valid regular UI claim.

You will receive a notice through the mail about 5-7 days after the PEUC extension is filed, but the EDD strongly recommends you closely watch your [UI Online<sup>SM</sup>](#) account within the week following May 27 for update emails. That will allow you to quickly certify your eligibility for these PEUC extension benefits.

**How much will I get in benefits and how will I get paid?**

Your PEUC payments will be the same as the weekly benefit amount on your last valid regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) claim. Additionally, you will receive the \$600 federal stimulus that is available through July 25, 2020 with each week of benefits you are paid. You must certify your ongoing eligibility and you will be paid bi-weekly benefits in the same way that you were paid for your regular UI claim, for most people that's the EDD Debit Card.

**Tips for how to avoid processing delays for validating your identity**

In order to protect the integrity of the UI program and ensure only those legally eligible to receive benefits are paid those benefits, the EDD verifies the identity information a claimant provides when they apply for benefits. If the EDD is unable to verify the individual's identity, the individual will then be required to go through an ID Alert process and provide extra documentation. This additional process can prevent an imposter from collecting benefits, but it can also take more time to get a claim processed for a legitimate claimant.

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**What can I do to avoid delaying the processing of my claim to verify identity?**

The EDD has redirected hundreds of staff to processing this increased claim load and has found that many individuals are mistakenly entering their SSNs incorrectly, making an error on their application, or not fully completing their applications with the employment history required, which means these claims can't be auto-processed and require follow up. Claimants are encouraged to take their time and review the information thoroughly, page by page. One of the final pages of the online application serves as a summary and claimants should ensure everything is true and correct before they submit their application.

**What should I do if I got a notice from EDD with the wrong SSN or name on it?**

It's possible that a mistake made when entering an SSN on an application could be linked to another individual's SSN. In this case, the claimant may receive a notice with what looks like an SSN starting with "999" or "990", which is a temporary ID number for EDD purposes only. The individual should follow the instructions for providing the documentation required on the *Request for Identity Verification (DE 1326C) notice* to verify the correct identity information, and be sure to send it within 10 calendar days from the mail date of the notice and ONLY to the EDD address included on the notice.

**What if I do make a mistake on my application? Is there any way to clear it up and get my correct claim information processed?**

When claimants receive their claim award notice after applying, they should write on the notice what needs to be corrected or added, and return it to the address on the notice. An applicant may also contact EDD through their UI Online account to address any mistakes on their application. Alternately, they can call EDD at 1-800-300-5616 if they don't yet have access to their UI Online account.

The EDD offers a wide variety of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on the EDD's COVID-19 webpage, including those about the new [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) program designed for the self-employed, as well as how eligibility for unemployment benefits can be impacted with a worker's return to work or refusal to return to work.

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The Employment Development Department (EDD) offers a wide variety of services to millions of Californians. Among the programs administered by the EDD are Unemployment Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Paid Family Leave.

Please visit the [Unemployment Benefits Guide](#) for instructions on how to apply for Unemployment Insurance or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

For additional information on financial resources please visit:  
<https://covid19.ca.gov/get-financial-help/>.