



N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

Date: July 30, 2020

News Release No.: 20-36

Unemployment benefits during pandemic top \$55 billion in California

Sacramento – California workers out of a job or working reduced hours in this historic pandemic have received a total of **\$55.1 billion** in unemployment benefits since March, which also provides valuable consumer spending support for businesses and communities. The state’s Employment Development Department (EDD) has processed a total of **9.3 million claims** during this pandemic, between the regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, extensions, and separate Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. Approximately 7.1 million of those are for regular state-provided UI benefits over the last almost five months – about double the number of regular UI claims the EDD processed during the highest year of the Great Recession (3.8 million in 2010).

Unemployment Insurance (UI) - Data Dashboard				
		<i>Current Week</i>	<i>Prior Weeks</i>	<i>Total</i>
		July 25, 2020	WE 3/14 -7/18/20	WE 3/14-7/25/20
Total Applications Submitted <i>(Approx. UI Online applications received from unemployed workers) ¹</i>	Reg. UI	99,763	5,006,255	5,106,018
	PUA	293,751	1,715,304	2,009,055
	PEUC²	40,287	383,435	423,722
	FED-ED³	48,982	37,158	86,140
	Total	482,783	7,142,152	7,624,935
Total Claims Processed <i>(Approx. applications processed by the EDD including reopened claims) ⁴</i>	Reg. UI	249,007	6,888,005	7,137,012
	PUA	224,679	1,431,700	1,656,379
	PEUC²	45,327	417,773	463,100
	FED-ED³	12,113	36,779	48,892
	Total	531,126	8,774,257	9,305,383
Total Benefits Paid <i>(Approx. combination of first benefit payments and continued claim bi-weekly payments) ⁵</i>	Reg. UI	\$2.6 billion	\$36.1 billion	\$38.7 billion
	PUA	\$2.6 billion	\$11.8 billion	\$14.3 billion
	PEUC²	\$211 million	\$1.8 billion	\$2.0 billion
	FED-ED³	\$15.0 million	\$16.0 million	\$31.0 million
	Total	\$5.4 billion	\$49.7 billion	\$55.1 billion
Individuals Paid Benefits ^{6,7} <i>(Expressed as four-week rolling totals to account for different bi-weekly payment cycles)</i>	Reg. UI	3,429,000	3,400,000	
	PUA	1,110,000	1,003,000	
	Total	4,539,000⁸	4,403,000⁹	

(more)

1. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) was implemented in California on April 28, 2020. This data includes new initial claims only.
2. The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) was implemented in California on May 27, 2020. PEUC claims are an extension of a regular UI claim. For the week ending July 18, 2020, (PEUC) total weeks claimed was 215,671.
3. FED-ED was implemented in California on July 1, 2020. FED-ED claims are an extension of a regular UI claim.
4. Claims processed through UI Online, along with about 5% of claims that arrive via paper of phone. This accounts for claims received in the current week as well as past weeks. The data also includes additional claims or claims that are re-opened when there is a break in certifying for benefits, for example when the claimant may return to work but then later come back to collect benefits on their initial claim.
5. Includes \$600 federal stimulus payments EDD adds to each week of regular UI, PUA, PEUC, and FED-ED benefits. Regular UI benefits are paid out of California's UI Trust Fund with contributions from employers, PUA, PEUC, FED-ED and the \$600 federal stimulus payments are paid for by the federal government. The Total Benefits Paid may not add up due to the rounding data.
6. Counts include individuals claiming regular UI, PEUC, and FED-ED benefits. If an individual claims a regular UI benefit, PEUC, or FED-ED benefit in a four-week rolling time period, they are only counted once.
7. 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.
8. Four-week rolling total between week-ending July 4th and week-ending July 25, 2020.
9. Four-week rolling total between week-ending June 27 and week-ending July 18, 2020.

Governor Newsom takes action to strengthen UI services

Governor Newsom has [announced](#) the formation of a Task Force to support EDD's effort to modernize the UI program and develop further short-, mid-, and long-term recommendations for transforming the customer experience for the digital age.

#####