Employment Development Department
State of California

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Unemployment benefits reach $110 billion in 8 months of pandemic

Sacramento – Unemployment benefits for workers in California who have lost jobs or had their hours reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic now total $110 billion stemming from 16.4 million claims processed since March. According to the latest data from the California Employment Development Department (EDD), both applications received and claims processed last week increased slightly from the week before for the first time in about a month.

The total of federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) extension claims for individuals who run out of regular state unemployment benefits accounts for about 26% of the nation's total. The latest available unemployment claims and trends data can be found on the EDD's online Newsroom.

In addition, the EDD also reports a 64% reduction in the current backlog of claims since September 19. These are claims in which individuals have waited more than 21 days for issues to be resolved on either their Initial Claim for benefits or once they get into Continued Claim status. The progress in burning down the backlog is updated each week on the EDD's Unemployment Data Dashboards webpage.

As efforts to flatten the COVID-19 curve continue, the EDD encourages workers who become unemployed or have their hours reduced to access COVID-19 Resources on EDD's website, including top FAQs updated each week and a Flow Chart to help guide individuals on what benefits are available, how to apply, and what to expect after you've used all of your benefits or your claim has expired.

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