

N E W S R E L E A S E

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## **New data illustrating historic demand for unemployment benefits in California**

### ***Updates on EDD's efforts to process and pay benefits***

**Important Note:** Soundbites from EDD Director Sharon Hilliard about EDD's efforts to respond to this historic demand for benefits can be downloaded here: [LINK](#)

**Sacramento** – According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) processed 615,809 unemployment benefit claims and paid \$4.5 billion in benefits during the week ending on May 2, 2020.

In total, since the week ending March 14, the EDD processed a total of **4.1 million claims** for benefits and paid a total of **\$8.9 billion in benefit payments** including both first benefit payments and ongoing bi-weekly benefits once workers have a claim established. Those claims include both Unemployment Insurance (UI) and the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which launched on April 28<sup>th</sup>. PUA recipients may be self-employed, business owners, independent contractors, those who have limited work history, and those who have recently collected all of the available benefits on their regular UI claim. California marks the week ending March 14 as the start of unemployment demand related to COVID-19.

The numbers reported reflect earlier initial estimates on claims processed and benefits paid. The EDD's data analysis is reported weekly to the U.S. Department of Labor which then releases the official data each Thursday for the prior week.

EDD also released a new weekly data dashboard to illustrate the continued demand for unemployment benefits during the pandemic.

(more)

### Unemployment Insurance (UI) Data Dashboard

Week Ending Date	Total Applications Submitted (Approx. UI Online applications received from unemployed workers)			Total Claims Processed (Approx. applications processed by the EDD.) <sup>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
May 2, 2020	298,000	399,898 <sup>1</sup>	697,954	318,064	297,745 <sup>1</sup>	615,809	\$4.1 billion	\$247 million	\$4.4 billion	3.1 million	Not available at this time <sup>5</sup>
March 14 – April 25	3.4 million			3.5 million			\$4.5 billion			2.5 million	
<b>TOTAL for last 8 weeks</b>	<b>4.1 million</b>			<b>4.1 million</b>			<b>\$8.9 billion</b>			This information isn't meant to be totaled as it's a four-week rolling total. <sup>4</sup>	

1. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) was released in California effective April 28, 2020. This figure represents data from April 28 – May 2, 2020. The US DOL has released the 318,064 data for regular UI claims for California and a general PUA claims count for the nation. The 297,745 data is an estimate of California's portion.
2. Claims processed through UI Online, along with about 5% of claims that arrive via paper or phone.
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.
5. Data will eventually include PUA claims, and excludes claimants were who fully employed, disqualified or had excessive earnings that would disqualify them for a week of benefits.

#### Putting the Data into Context

Over just the last eight weeks, the EDD has paid more than a third of what was paid in benefits during the highest year of demand during the last recession, which was \$22.9 billion in calendar year 2010.

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The Employment Development Department (EDD) offers a wide variety of services to millions of Californians. Among those it administers are the Unemployment Insurance and State Disability Insurance programs.

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/>.