



N E W S R E L E A S E

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California Provides \$71 Billion in Unemployment Benefit Payments to Pandemic-Impacted Workers

Sacramento – As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect employment statewide, impacted workers and employers are receiving vital benefit support from California Employment Development Department (EDD), which disbursed over \$71.4 billion in benefit payments since March. EDD has processed over a total of 11.0 million claims for Unemployment Insurance (UI), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), and benefit claims extensions over that timeframe. The average amount of benefits paid daily by EDD over last week (\$724 million) was 967 percent higher than the daily average paid over the same week at the height of the Great Recession (\$68 million) in 2010.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) - Data Dashboard				
		<i>Current Week</i>	<i>Prior Weeks</i>	<i>Total</i>
		August 22, 2020	WE 3/14 -8/15/20	WE 3/14 -8/22/20
Total Applications Submitted <i>(Approx. UI Online applications received from unemployed workers)¹</i>	Reg. UI	68,947	5,325,886	5,394,833
	PUA	345,148	2,689,900	3,035,048
	PEUC²	40,286	559,850	600,136
	FED-ED³	6,704	104,053	110,757
	Total	461,085	8,679,689	9,140,774
Total Claims Processed <i>(Approx. applications processed by the EDD including reopened claims)⁴</i>	Reg. UI	209,516	7,780,664	7,990,180
	PUA	259,735	2,197,502	2,457,237
	PEUC²	44,993	611,210	656,203
	FED-ED³	6,830	67,197	74,027
	Total	521,074	10,656,573	11,177,647
Total Benefits Paid <i>(Approx. combination of first benefit payments and continued claim bi-weekly payments)⁵</i>	Reg. UI	\$992 million	\$44.0 billion	\$45.0 billion
	PUA	\$3.2 billion	\$20.3 billion	\$23.5 billion
	PEUC²	\$108 million	\$2.6 billion	\$2.7 billion
	FED-ED³	\$14.3 million	\$161 million	\$175 million
	Total	\$4.3 billion	\$67.0 billion	\$71.4 billion
Individuals Paid Benefits^{6,7} <i>(Expressed as four-week rolling totals to account for different bi-weekly payment cycles)</i>	Reg. UI	3,446,000	3,471,000	
	PUA	1,480,000	1,352,000	
	Total	4,926,000 ⁸	4,823,000 ⁹	

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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 August 15, 2020, (PEUC) total weeks claimed was 394,398.
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. The total claims processed from 3/14 - 8/22/20 may include multiple claims from the same applicant.
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 August 1st and week-ending August 22nd, 2020.
9. Four-week rolling total between week-ending July 25th and week-ending August 15th, 2020.

Status of \$300 Federal Lost Wages Assistance Benefits

California has federal approval for an initial \$4.5 billion in funding for the federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program, which will provide eligible claimants with a supplemental payment of \$300 per week for a minimum of three weeks.

Eligibility

Federal guidance for the Lost Wages Assistance program states that in order to receive the \$300 LWA payment, a claimant must have a minimum weekly benefit award of \$100 or more, receive a payment on their regular or federal unemployment benefit claim (including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Fed-ED), **AND** must have provided self-certification that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Payments

The EDD will begin processing LWA payments in phases for eligible individuals in the week beginning September 7, 2020.

- The first phase will cover claimants who previously provided information that they were unemployed due to a COVID-19 related reason on their initial application and have already received their regular state or federal unemployment payments for benefit weeks between July 26 and August 15. Generally, claimants who applied for benefits mid-March would have been presented with questions about being unemployed due to a COVID-19 reason.
- The second phase will cover claimants who did not have the opportunity to indicate they were unemployed due to a COVID-19 reason on their initial application and still meet the minimum \$100 weekly benefit amount eligibility requirement. The EDD will be sending notifications to claimants to complete a one-time self-certification to inform the department if they were unemployed due to disruptions caused by COVID-19.

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The EDD will be notifying claimants by email, SMS text message, or by mail to gather this information in mid-September. The EDD recommends that once claimants get this notification that they submit their self-certification through their UI Online account for faster processing.

Customer Service Updates

- **EDD email notifications for \$0 benefit notice recipients** - EDD is now sending e-mail notifications to individuals who applied for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits before the April 28, 2020, implementation of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and have not yet returned to file a PUA claim or provide additional wage information to establish a regular UI claim. PUA may provide benefits to those who are business owners, self-employed, or independent contractors, and have not received employment wages in the past 18 months. These emails will remind those individuals that PUA benefits may be available to them or regular UI benefits, if they worked as an employee but their wages were not reported by their employer to the EDD, and will welcome them back to file a UI application or provide the necessary wage documents.

The fastest way to apply for PUA or regular UI benefits is by filing a new application for benefits through [UI Online](#). On the “Last Employer” page in the UI Online application, please review the guidance on how to answer the question about whether you worked for any employer in the last 18 months. Refer to EDD’s online PUA [FAQs](#) for more information on eligibility, filing, and benefit payments.

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