

State of Vermont
Department of Labor
Office of the Commissioner

5 Green Mountain Drive
P.O. Box 488
Montpelier, VT 05601
labor.vermont.gov

[telephone]
[fax]

802-828-4301
802-828-4181

To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: December 22, 2020
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

GENERAL

- New Federal CARES Act Update – Existing Programs – As passed but not signed by President

Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) to March 14, 2021 and allows individuals receiving benefits as of March 14, 2021 to continue through April 5, 2021, as long as the individual has not reached the maximum number of weeks, and increases the number of weeks of benefits an individual may claim from 39 to 50.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

Extends Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) to March 14, 2021 and allows individuals receiving benefits as of March 14, 2021 to continue through April 5, 2021, as long as the individual has not reached the maximum number of weeks, and increases the number of weeks of benefits an individual may claim through the PEUC program from 13 to 24.

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

Restores the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) supplement to all state and federal unemployment benefits at \$300 per week, starting after December 26 and ending March 14, 2021.

Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities and Nonprofit Organizations

Extends through March 14, 2021 a provision in the CARES Act which amended the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to provide federal support to cover 50% of the costs of unemployment benefits for employees of state and local governments and non-profit organizations.

- Claimants who are able to do so, are encouraged to be looking for work if they are unemployed. A requirement of the UI program is for claimants to make 3 job contacts per week to be eligible for benefits. That requirement has currently been waived but will likely be reinstated in the near future.
- Our Workforce Development team will be increasing virtual services available to Vermonters. Over the weekend, we had a 'soft launch' of our official re-employment efforts. This week, we will begin to promote our series of statewide 'no-cost, open-to-all' workshops which will run for 6 weeks. These workshops will include reemployment strategies, interviewing skills, resume writing, and regional employment connections (all virtual).

- Full workshop schedule: <https://labor.vermont.gov/calendar>
 - Individuals interested in receiving services and assistance throughout the job search process: [Job Seeker Inquiry Form](#)
- The Workforce Development team is doing direct outreach to claimants who exhausted their UI benefits following the end of the State's Extended Benefit Program on December 19th.

CLAIMS

- Our weekly numbers continue to show an increase in the number of initial claims be filed. This is believed to be part of the seasonal shift in employment. Traditionally, the week of Thanksgiving is the Department's busiest week of the year for the UI Division.
- Claimants filing for unemployment continue to receive a weekly jobs newsletter with highlighted job opportunities available across Vermont. **December 21st Jobs Newsletter:** <https://conta.cc/34yOALG>

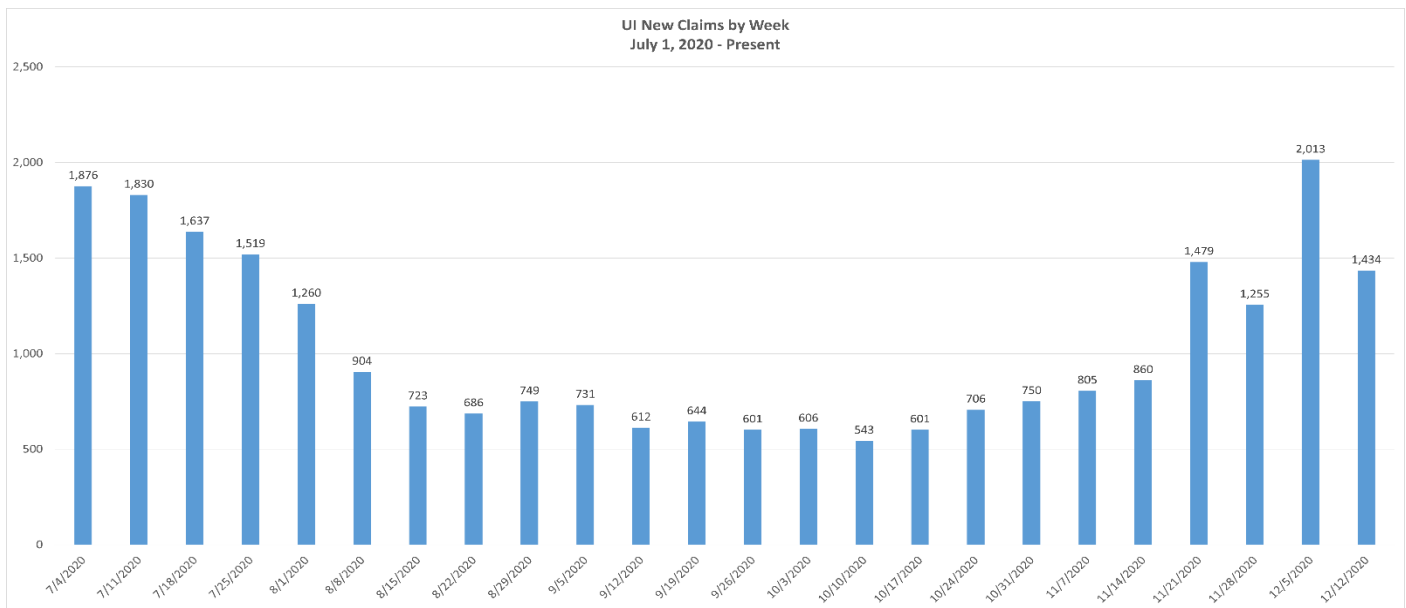


Figure 1

Continued Claims Filed						
Week Ending	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	12/5	12/12
Regular UI	11,209	10,825	11,150	10,082	11,983	11,909
PEUC	8,995	9,158	9,598	8,963	9,825	9,833
EB	724	701	754	704	885	977
PUA	8,274	8,255	8,503	8,451	8,694	8,675
Total	29,202	28,939	30,005	28,200	31,342	31,394

Figure 2

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.

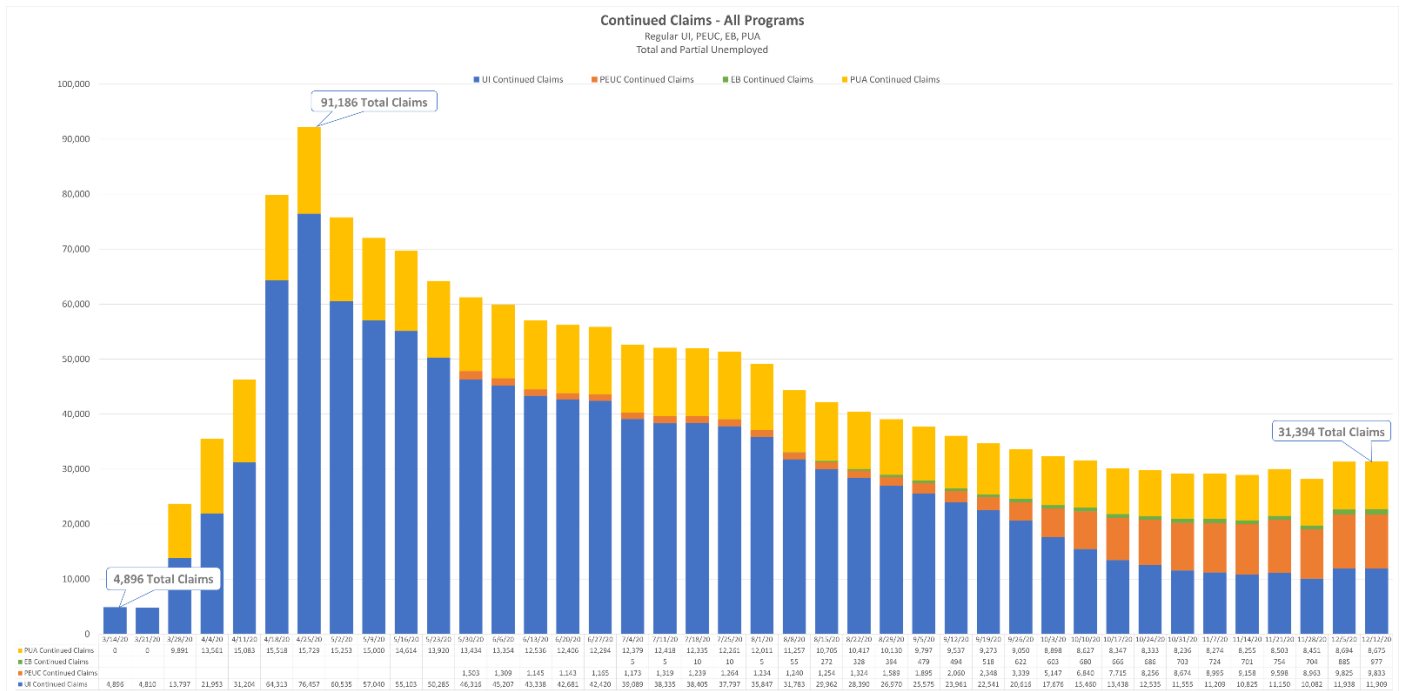


Figure 3

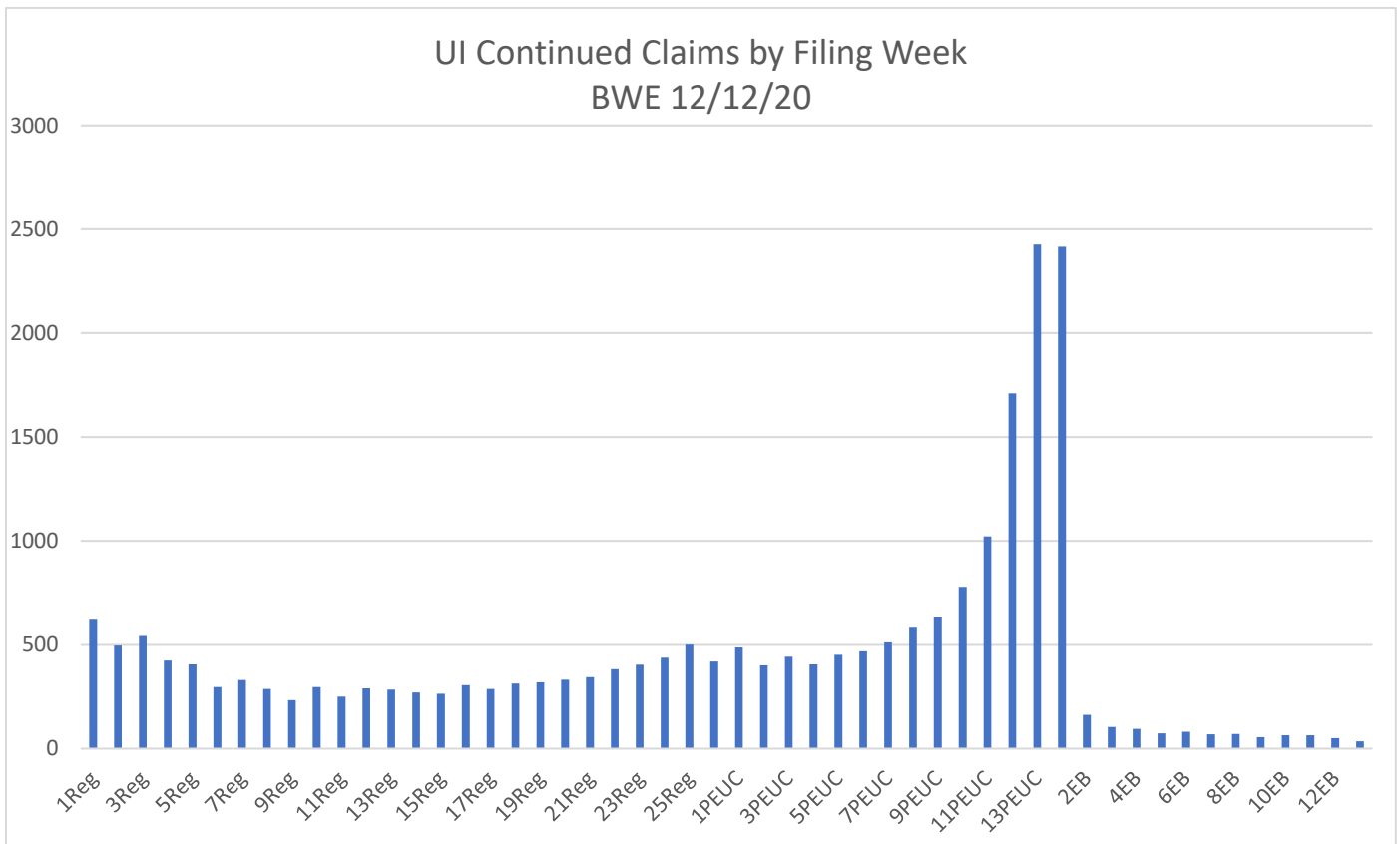


Figure 4

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.

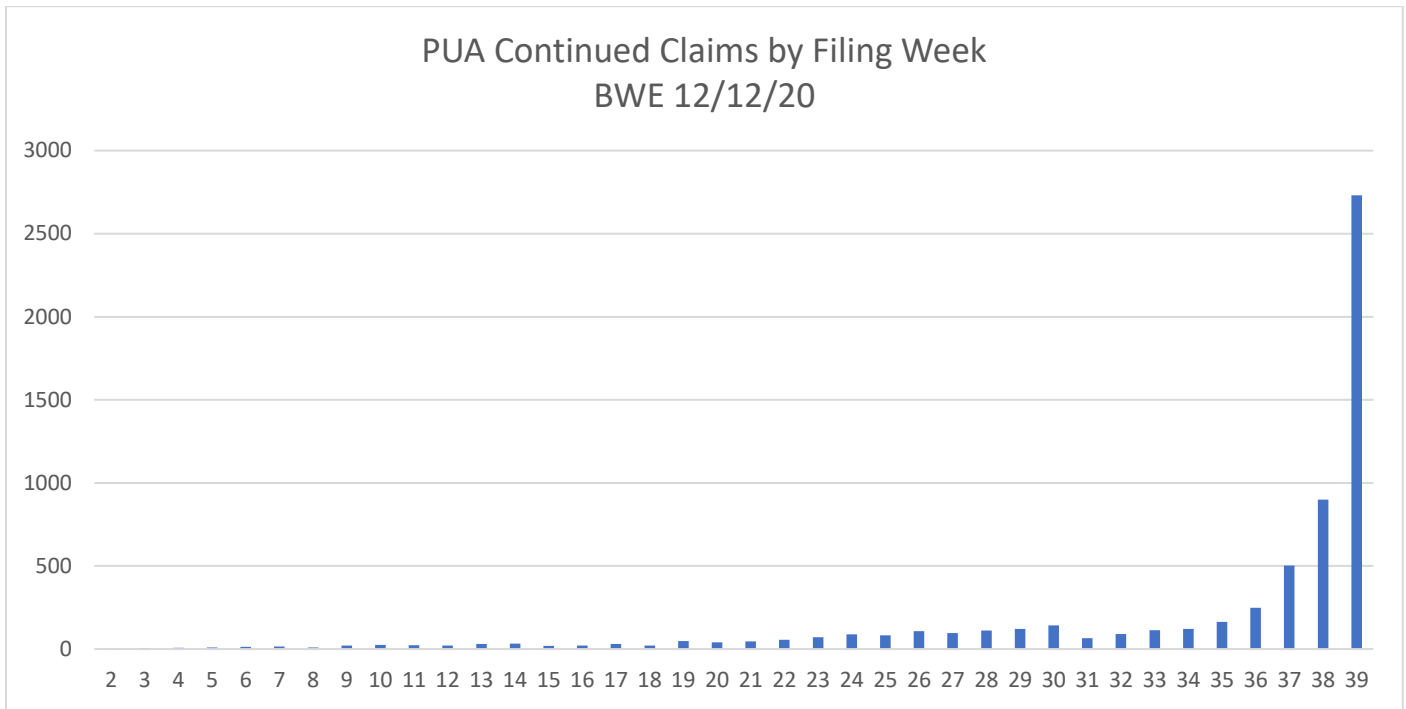


Figure 5

PAYMENTS

- The Vermont Short Term Supplemental (VSTS) benefit was paid out to all eligible claimants. In total, there were 33,509 claimants receiving the benefit for a total payment amount of \$14,606,500.
- We continue to process LWA payments as claimants certify and/or become eligible on a regular basis. Claimants who have not completed their certification or need to recertify may do so by contacting our UI Claimant Assistance Center. **As of December 18, the LWA program has paid out \$55,858,000 with approximately \$13.3 million remaining.**
- Regular UI is funded by state trust fund dollars, PEUC is fully-federally funded, and EB is currently fully-federally funded. Normally, EB is a 50/50 split between the trust fund and federal dollars. Additionally, the PUA program is fully-federally funded. The UI trust fund is funded through employer contributions.

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Claims Payment Processing						
Week Ending	All UI Claims Paid	All UI Payments	PUA Claims Paid	PUA Payments	Total Payments Issued	Trust Fund Balance
November 7	20,305	\$6,624,336	7,750	\$2,318,413	\$8,942,749	\$259,867,537
November 14	19,933	\$6,436,674	8,023	\$2,506,616	\$8,943,290	\$258,433,413
November 21	20,441	\$6,803,665	8,005	\$2,537,754	\$9,341,419	\$255,487,068
November 28	18,745	\$6,138,744	8,387	\$2,782,380	\$8,921,124	\$252,170,953
December 5	21,870	\$7,451,856	8,211	\$2,638,931	\$10,295,096	\$249,016,877
December 12	21,160	\$7,206,483	8,126	\$2,367,865	\$9,574,348	\$247,023,458

Figure 6

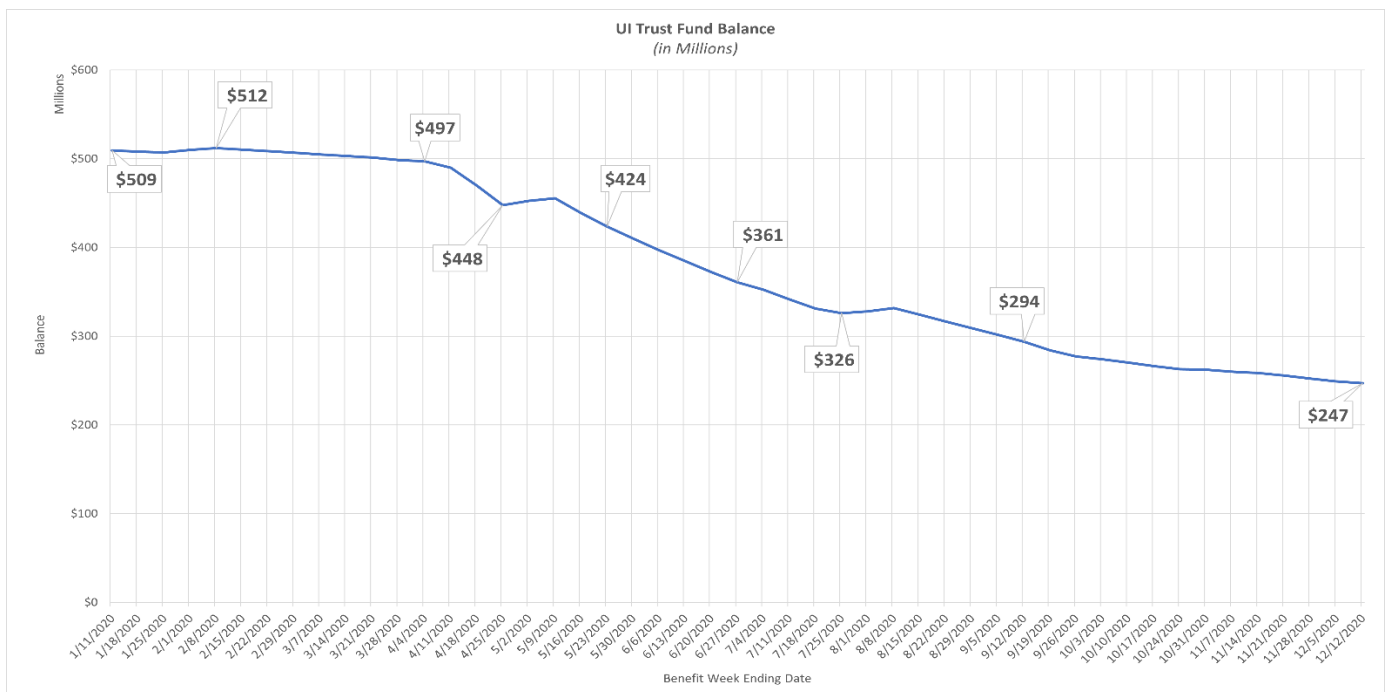


Figure 7

CLAIMANT ASSISTANCE CENTER

- We continue to see high call volume and wait times on Mondays. Claimants are encouraged to call later in the day on Monday or later in the week whenever possible.

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
196	2,610	12:22	7:23

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.

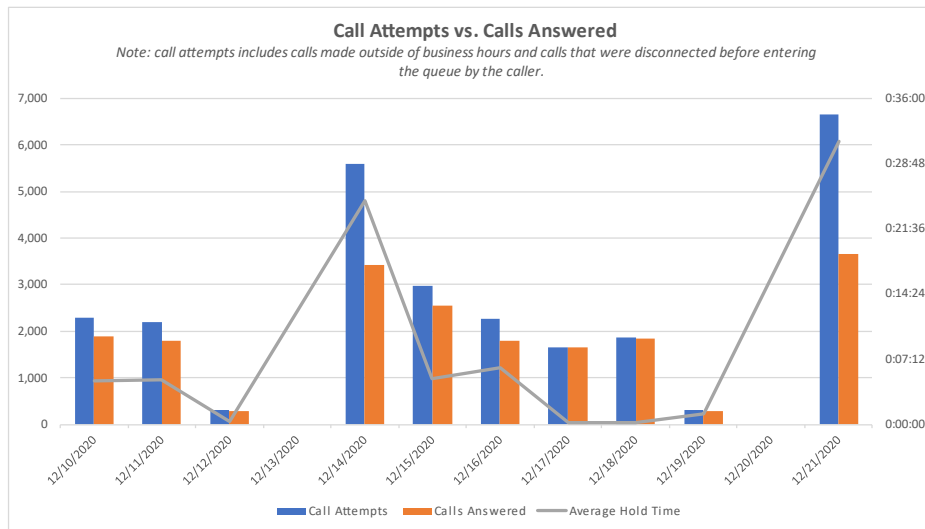


Figure 8

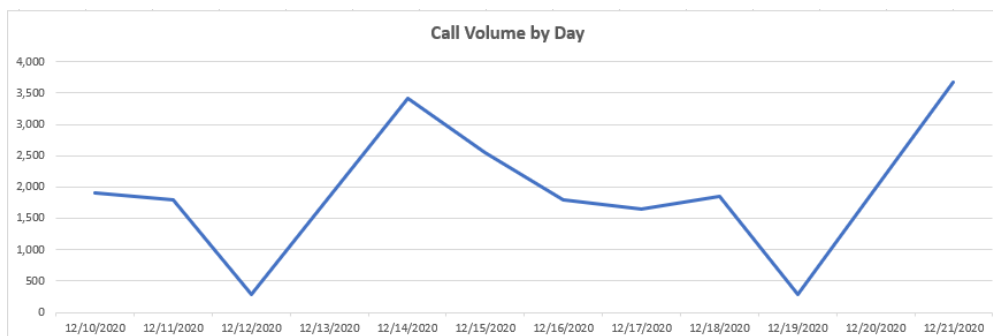


Figure 9

OTHER RESOURCES

- [UI “How-To” video library](#)
- [Live Chat with UI Claimant Assistance Center](#)
- [Weekly Virtual Town Hall events for employers](#)
- [Job seeker inquiry form for individuals seeking re-employment services](#)
- [Seasonal layoff information for employers and claimants](#)
- [External resources for individuals who have exhausted benefits](#)

The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time of publication, it has not been subject to inspection or validation, and does not constitute verified employment data for the purposes of required reporting and formal release. This data is for the sole purpose of informing the public and shall not be recreated or reposted in any way, without this disclaimer. The information provided herein is not related in any way to the certified data provided to the U.S. Department of Labor.