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To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: April 28, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

Executive Summary:

During the benefit week ending April 17, there were 31,710 weekly claims filed. This is an increase of 1,182 over the previous benefit week. During the week ending April 17, \$13,638,356 in benefits were paid out to claimants.

The work search requirement for all regular UI claimants and some PUA claimants will be reinstated beginning May 9. The work search had been waived last spring to align with the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order. Claimants will be required to conduct three qualified job contacts for each week when filing their weekly claim. Exemptions from this requirement are in place for individuals who have a return-to-work date within 10 weeks and for those who have a qualifying COVID related circumstance that prevents them being able to return to work. Additional information on the work search requirement is available on our website. An email will also be sent to claimants informing them of the change in requirements and an informational town hall style event will be held next week for claimants to understand the process and can ask questions.

The Department continues to see a steady stream of fraudulent unemployment claims being filed. Additional mitigation steps have been implemented in an effort to detect the fraud and withdraw the claim before the fraudster has the chance to file weekly claims and receive benefit payments. If an individual suspects a fraudulent claim has been opened in their name (most commonly by receiving a notice from the Department in the mail), they should immediately report it to the Department to be sure the claim is withdrawn. Individuals who are the victims of this type of fraud will not be held liable for any benefits paid out and will not impact their eligibility to receive benefits in the future should they need to file for unemployment.

Links and Resources:

- [UI Work Search](#)
- [Report UI Fraud](#)
- [Opening a New Benefit Year](#)
- [Report a Refusal to Return to Work](#)
- [UI "How-To" video library \(applying for benefits, reopening a claim, submitting weekly claims\)](#)
- [Workforce Development services \(online job board, workshops, events, and local staff\)](#)
- [Vermont Job Link](#)
- [CARES Act UI Extension FAQ](#)
- [UI Updates Page \[Newsfeed\]](#)
- [Appealing UI Claim Determinations](#)
- [UI Adjudications Process](#)
- [1099-G Incident Page](#)
- [1099-G Incident FAQs](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Continued Claims Filed								
Week Ending	2/27	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27	4/3	4/10	4/17
Regular UI	12,087	12,195	11,691	11,074	10,548	10,041	11,407	11,594
PEUC	13,860	13,735	14,208	13,981	12,307	9,912	10,352	10,699
EB	29	19	33	19	6	6	6	5
PUA	8,761	8,745	8,809	8,714	8,700	8,766	8763	9,412
Total	34,737	34,694	34,741	33,788	31,561	28,725	30,528	31,710

Figure 1

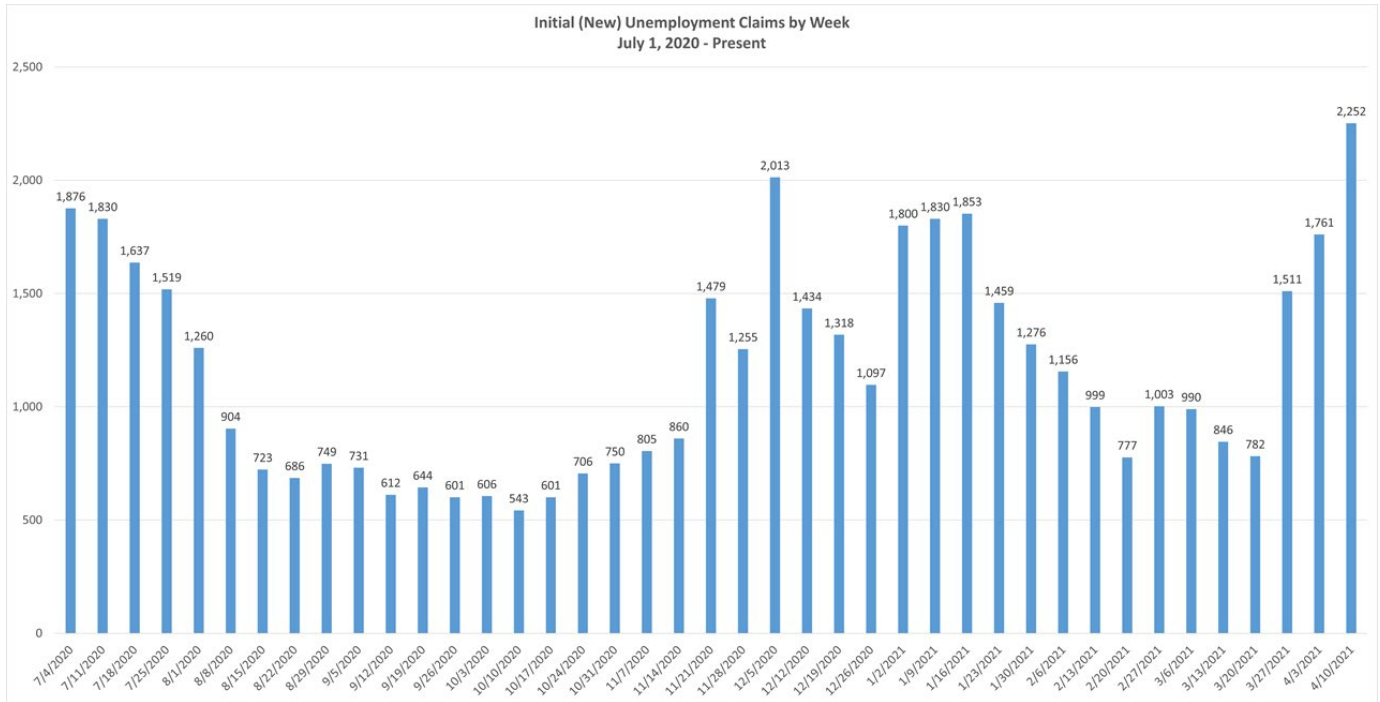


Figure 2

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.

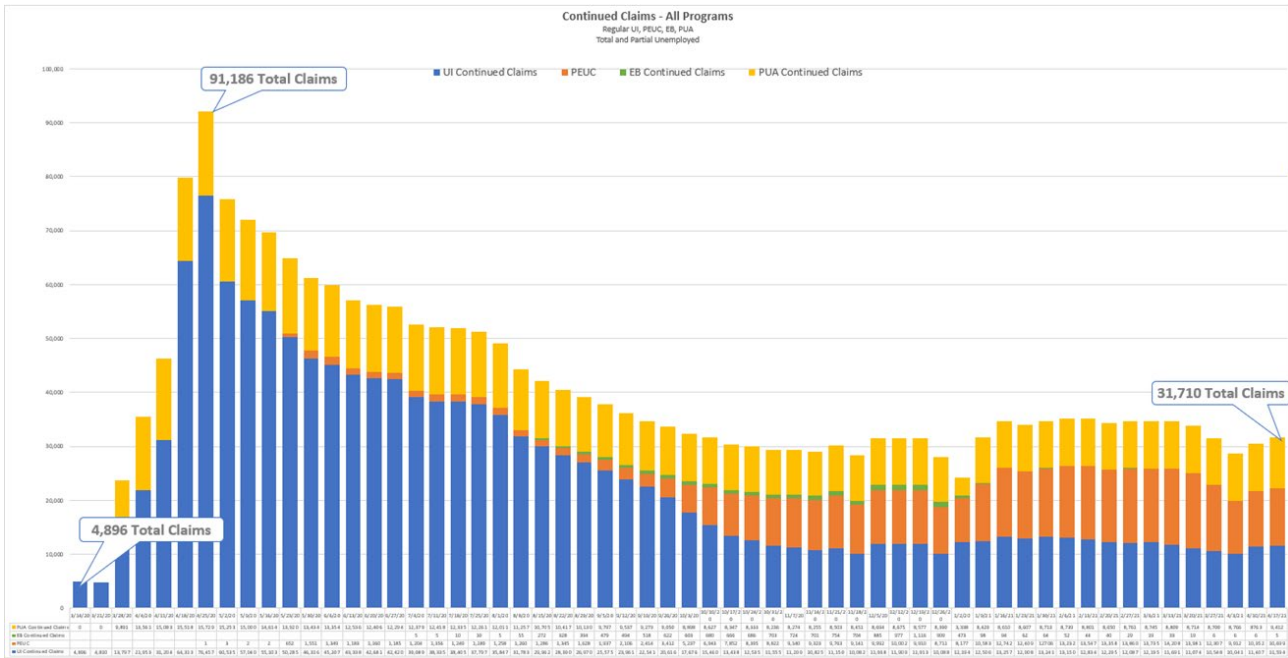


Figure 3

BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Claims Payment Processing						
Week Ending	All UI Claims Paid	All UI Payments	PUA Claims Paid*	PUA Payments	Total Payments Issued	Trust Fund Balance
February 6	24,476	\$8,389,274	8,564	\$5,273,597	\$13,662,871	\$230,211,298
February 13	24,231	\$8,201,345	9,382	\$5,656,278	\$13,857,623	\$228,073,511
February 20	24,051	\$8,124,670	7,851	\$4,764,568	\$12,889,238	\$224,265,194
February 27	24,353	\$8,308,811	8,460	\$5,187,084	\$13,495,895	\$220,634,570
March 6	24,532	\$8,257,067	8,800	\$5,265,854	\$13,522,921	\$216,886,619
March 13	25,932	\$8,125,362	8,809	\$5,039,666	\$13,165,028	\$213,374,056
March 20	24,024	\$7,955,310	8,501	\$5,280,981	\$13,236,291	\$210,031,857
March 27	21,747	\$7,237,175	8,761	\$5,314,230	\$12,551,405	\$206,917,566
April 3	18,546	\$6,141,499	8,330	\$5,342,378	\$11,483,877	\$205,787,117
April 10	19,350	\$6,663,758	8,765	\$4,248,179	\$10,911,937	\$203,340,379
April 17	19,843	\$6,776,296	9,687	\$6,862,060	\$13,638,356	\$201,307,270

*Only identifies payments issued and may include multiple benefit weeks being paid to one claimant.

Figure 4

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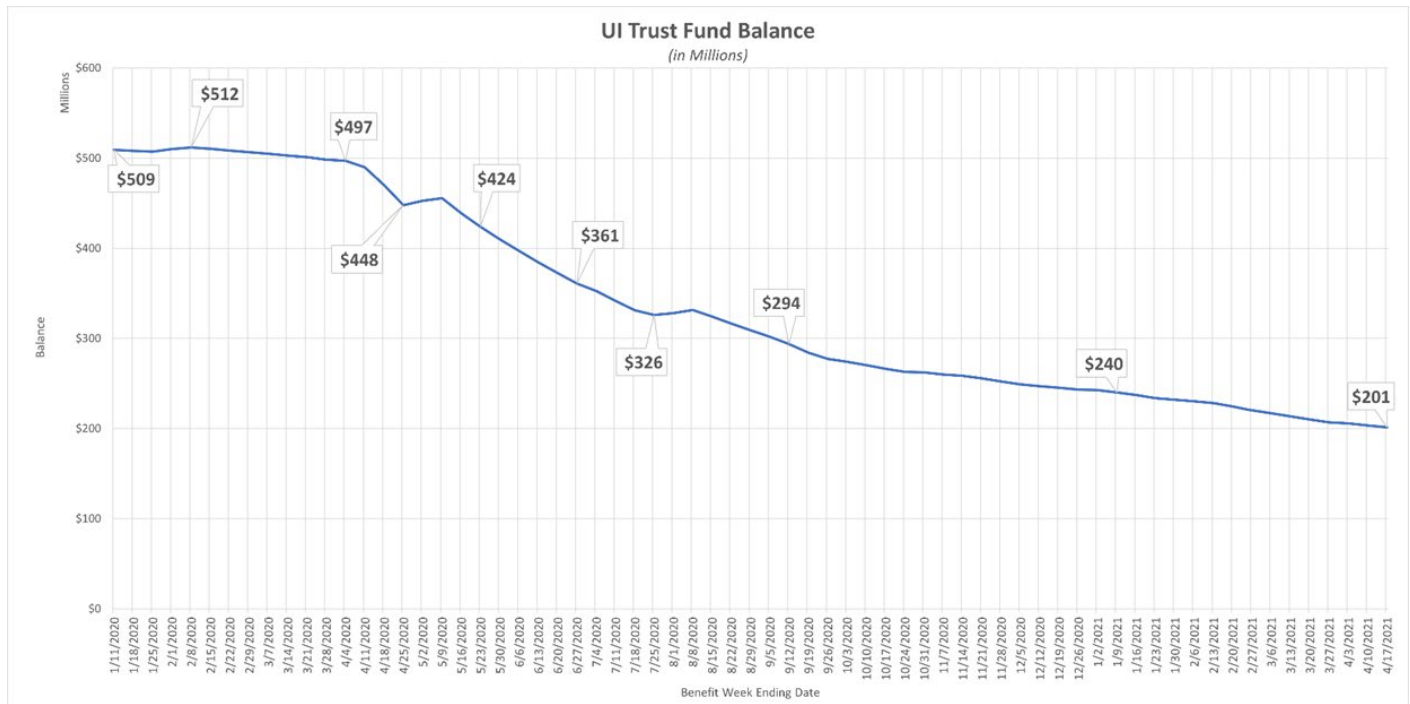


Figure 5

CALL VOLUME

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
101	3,134	11:31	10:00

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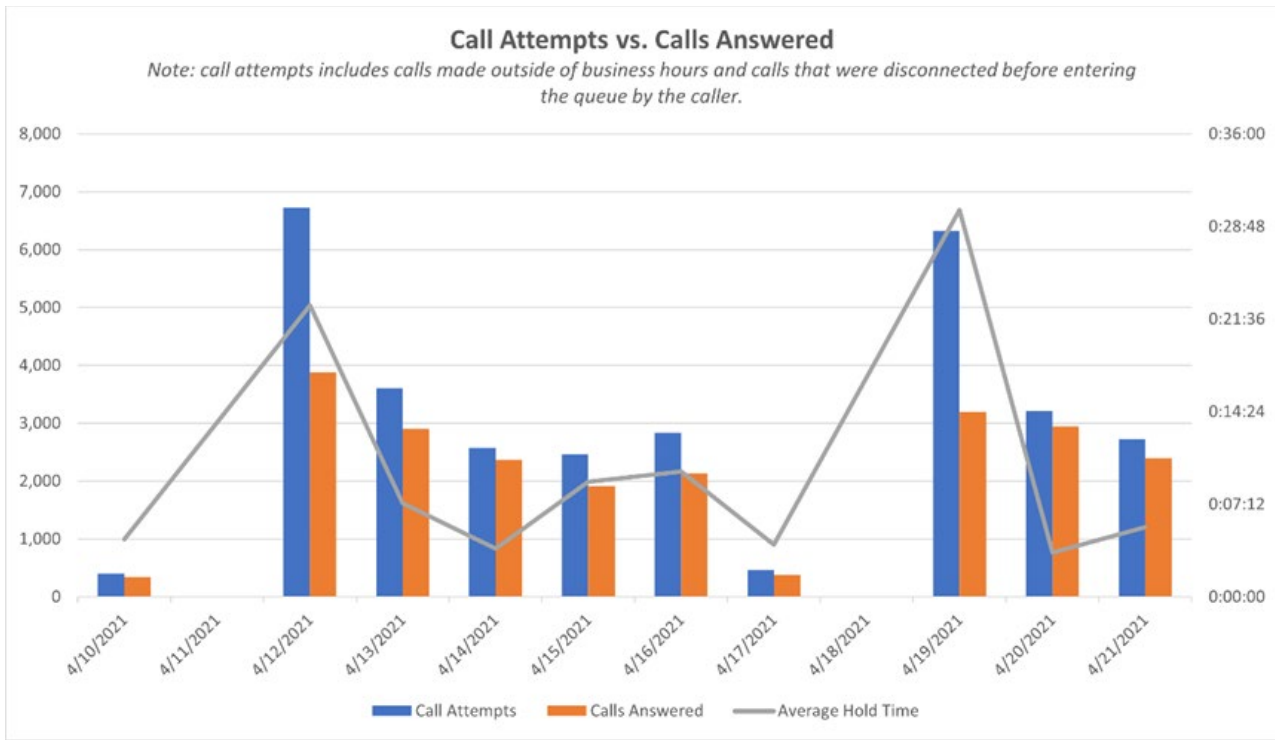


Figure 6

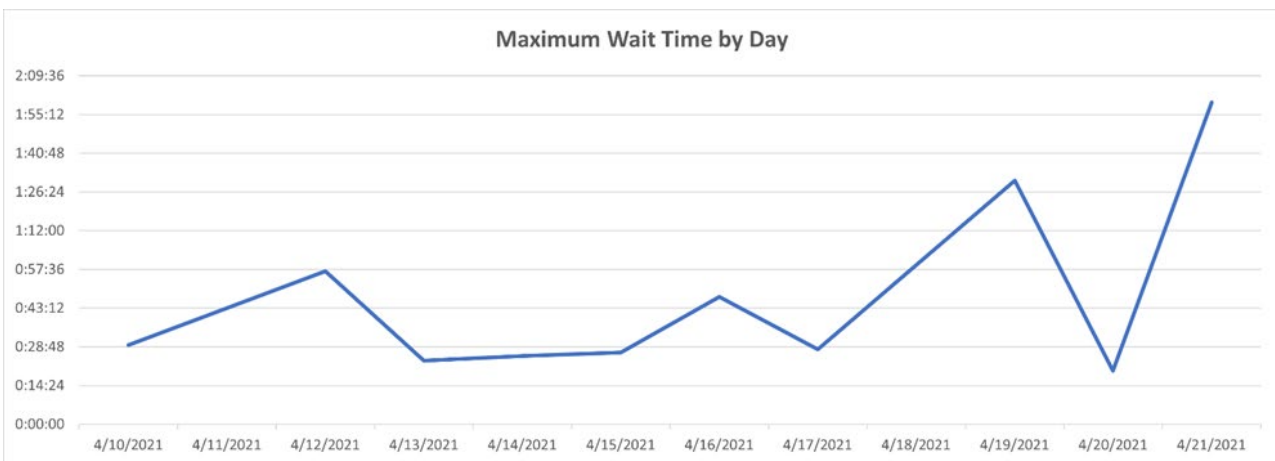


Figure 7

FRAUD DETECTION

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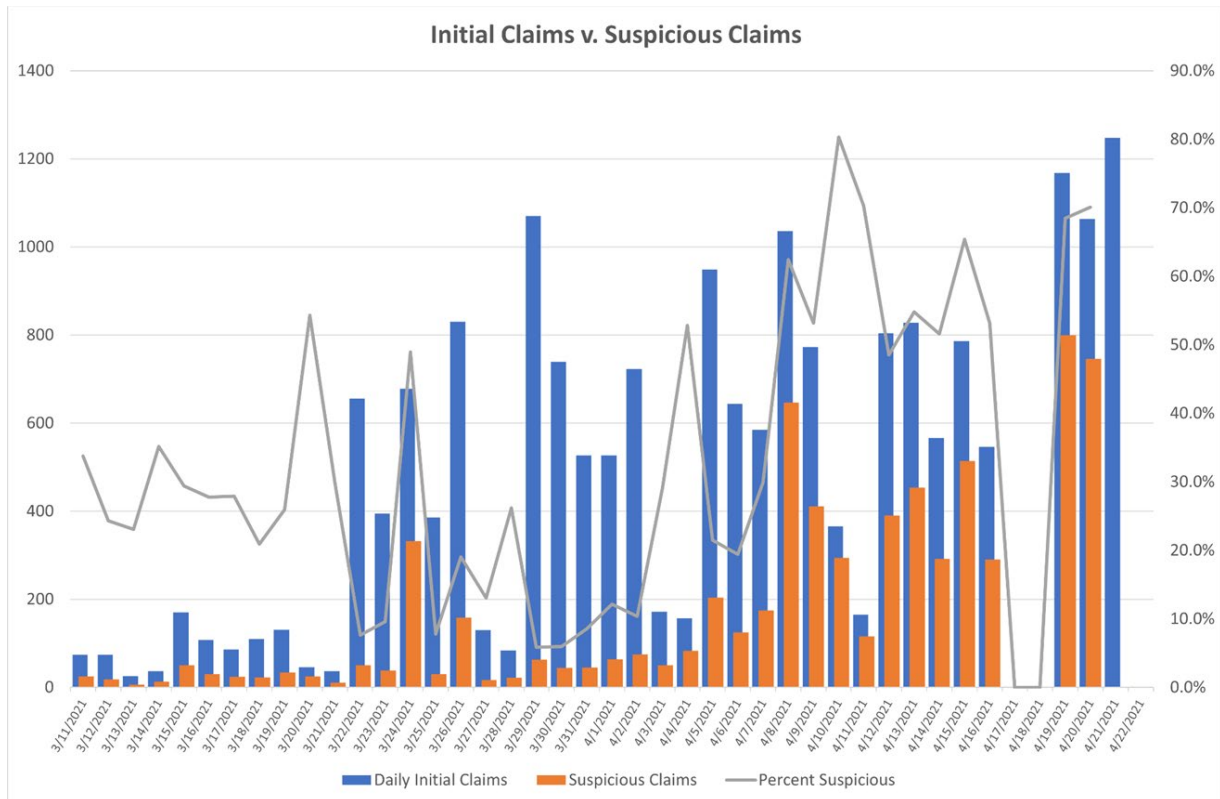


Figure 8

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