To: Vermont General Assembly  
From: Commissioner’s Office, Department of Labor  
Date: May 5, 2021  
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

Executive Summary:
During the benefit week ending April 24, there were 32,561 weekly claims filed. This is an increase of 851 over the previous benefit week. During the week ending April 24, $13,123,398 in benefits were paid out to claimants.

The Department hosted the first of a series of Virtual Town Hall events for claimants to learn more about the work search requirement that will be reinstituted beginning May 9. These events are centered around how to enter a work search in the online claimant portal, changes and exemptions to the work search to adapt to the current state of the pandemic, and other reemployment services and supports available to claimants to help them transition back into the workforce and into meaningful employment.

There was a large increase in fraudulent initial claims being submitted. To mitigate this, the Department removed the initial unemployment insurance application from the website, requiring claimants to call the UI Claimant Assistance Center to open an initial unemployment claim. This has reduced the number of fraudulent claims being submitted. The Department continues to work with vendors to identify potential fraudulent claims and places an automatic stop-payment issue on identified claims until the claimant’s identity can be verified to reduce the number of benefits paid to a fraudster.

We continue to hear from Vermonters that wait times remain high. The Department has always advised claimants to call later in the week whenever possible. As expected, the Claimant Assistance Center experiences the highest call volume on Monday’s, especially in the morning. The Claimant Assistance Center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00am until 5:30pm.

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](#)
## UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM

### Continued Claims Filed

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<td>8,763</td>
<td>9,412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>34,741</td>
<td>33,788</td>
<td>31,561</td>
<td>28,725</td>
<td>30,528</td>
<td>31,710</td>
<td><strong>32,561</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 1**

![Initial (New) Unemployment Claims by Week](chart)

*Initial (New) Unemployment Claims by Week*

*July 1, 2020 - Present*

**Figure 2**

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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.
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**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

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