To: Vermont General Assembly  
From: Commissioner’s Office, Department of Labor  
Date: December 8, 2020  
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

GENERAL

• With CARES Act programs (PEUC and PUA) coming to a close on December 26, 2020 and the anticipated end of the Extended Benefits program sometime in mid-December, roughly 70-75% of the unemployment filing population will lose their benefits by the end of the year. The Department continues to send out weekly newsletters to claimants with highlighted jobs across the state. We are also working closely with other state agencies to help educate claimants on other State funded assistance they may qualify for. We have created a page on our website that highlights these programs: https://labor.vermont.gov/external-resources-covid-19

• Claimants who are impacted by the ending of PEUC, and PUA have all been notified via email that they will no longer be able to file beyond the benefit week ending December 26, 2020 and will continue to receive weekly reminders. Additionally, we will notify claimants as soon as we officially trigger off EB.

• The Department will still be able to issue payments for these programs for any weeks that were filed while the programs were active. This includes eligible claimants whose claims are under review by the Department or are part of an active appeal that is made eligible after the program end date.

• At the start of the pandemic, work search requirements were waived for all claimants. It is important for claimants to remember that if they are unemployed, and detached from their employer, they are strongly encouraged to actively search for work. It is likely at some point in the near future, work search requirements will be reinstated, and claimants will be required to complete weekly job contacts. Claimants may also reach out to the Workforce Development Division through the Job Seeker Inquiry Form for assistance in finding job opportunities as well as participate in our weekly Virtual Job Fairs.
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 7th Jobs Newsletter: https://conta.cc/2K4anDu

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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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.
• The LWA program has paid out $55,180,330 in benefits with just over $14 Million remaining. We continue to pay claimants as they certify and/or become eligible on a regular basis.

• 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims Payment Processing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week Ending</td>
<td>Regular UI Claims Paid</td>
<td>Regular UI Payments</td>
<td>PUA Claims Paid</td>
<td>PUA Payments</td>
<td>Total Payments Issued</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24</td>
<td>21,605</td>
<td>$6,831,764</td>
<td>7,795</td>
<td>$2,430,550</td>
<td>$9,262,314</td>
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<td>October 31</td>
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<td>$2,342,051</td>
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<td>November 7</td>
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<td>November 14</td>
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<td>8,005</td>
<td>$2,537,754</td>
<td>$9,600,673</td>
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<td>November 28</td>
<td>18,922</td>
<td>$6,299,554</td>
<td>8,387</td>
<td>$2,782,380</td>
<td>$9,081,934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5

![UI Trust Fund Chart](image)

Figure 6

**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.
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