

State of Vermont
Department of Labor
Office of the Commissioner

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To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: March 3, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

GENERAL

1099 Processing Incident:

- The Department has created a 1099-G incident webpage summarizing the incident, as well as an FAQ document for claimants to reference. This information can be found at <https://labor.vermont.gov/1099-incident-updates>. Claimants can also receive the most up to date information by contacting the UI Claimant Assistance Center at 877-214-3332 and selecting Option 1 for a 1099 update.
 - [Department of Labor 1099 Update Press Release \(2.23.21\)](#)
- **Reissuing Correct 1099-Gs Update:**
 - On Monday, March 1st, the Department of Labor mailed over 180,000 new 1099-G documents to Vermonters who received benefits during the 2020 calendar year. Most 1099 documents will be delivered to claimants by Friday, March 5th.

Claimants can request a new or corrected 1099 if they did not receive one from the Department, would like a duplicate of their 1099, or if they believe information on the 1099 they received is incorrect. But first, there are a few things claimants should be mindful of when reviewing their 1099s from the Department.

1. Claimants may receive more than one 1099 from the Department of Labor. Claimants will receive a 1099 from one of the base programs either regular unemployment insurance – UI or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance – PUA. Additionally, if a claimant received any supplemental benefits over the course of the 2020 calendar year, such as Lost Wages Assistance or LWA, the Vermont Short Term Supplemental benefit or VSTS, or the Treasury \$1,200 prepaid benefit from April, they will also receive a 1099 for each of those programs.
2. Claimants need to review the “Account Number” box in the bottom left-hand corner of your 1099. The information in this box will tell you which benefit program is represented on your 1099.

3. The 1099s for both UI and PUA also includes the \$600 weekly federal benefit known as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation. If someone received all available weeks of the additional \$600 benefit, this could amount to more than \$10,000.
4. Claimants should remember that the option to have taxes deducted from either UI or PUA was provided to them when filing their weekly claims... However, the Department did not have the ability to provide this option for the supplemental benefit programs. Because of this, claimants who received an LWA 1099, VSTS 1099, or Treasury 1099, may need to pay taxes for those benefits.

Once a claimant has received and reviewed all of their 1099-G documents, if they still feel that the information provided on the forms is incorrect, they can submit a 1099 correction request form at <https://labor.vermont.gov/request-1099-correction>.

- **Recapture Update**

- Recall notices were mailed to individuals who received a 1099-G document (copy of the letter can be found here: <https://labor.vermont.gov/document/1099-recall-notice-claimants-2921>). We are aware that the prepaid envelopes are slightly smaller than the 1099 documents, requiring claimants to fold the document for it to fit in the envelope. While this was not ideal, the decision to use smaller envelopes was based on the need to expedite the mailing process through automation, which was not possible with a larger envelope. Some claimants will receive a return envelope even though they did not receive a 1099. This is likely because the faulty 1099 was stopped at the post office before it was delivered.

- **Identity Protection Update**

- The State has contracted with Identity Theft Guard Solutions, Inc (IDX) to provide identity protection service to claimants. This protection will cover claimants for a minimum of 12-months. **Notices were mailed to all 2020 claimants on Thursday, February 18. As of March 1, 2021, 3,615 individuals had enrolled in ID protection.**

- Since the passage of the CARES Act Extension legislation, we have seen an uptick in fraudulent claims being filed. Especially, claims involving stolen identities. Vermonters should remain vigilant and if they believe they have been the victim of identity theft resulting in a fraudulent claim being filed using their personal information, they should either contact our UI Fraud Tip Line at 802-828-4104 or submit an online fraud report at <https://labor.vermont.gov/form/report-ui-fraud>. It is important to note that our fraud unit handles thousands of claims each week making impossible for them to contact every individual who files a report. Individuals should expect to hear back from the Department only if more information is needed. After submitting a report to the Department, our team will review the report and stop any illegitimate claims. Victims of UI fraud are not held liable for any benefits that are paid to the fraudulent filer, nor

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will the fraudulent claim impact their credit score/report. For individuals who have fallen victim to identity theft, more information can be found at the Federal Trade Commission’s website (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/>). Additionally, individuals can file an identity theft report online with the FTC at <https://www.identitytheft.gov/>.

- We continue to monitor legislation at the federal level which includes provisions to extend unemployment insurance programs. Currently, federal programs, including PUA and PEUC will begin to sunset on March 14. This will impact nearly half of all claimants currently filing if no action is taken. We are hopeful Congress will act urgently so thousands of Vermonters can continue to receive benefits.

Standard Unemployment Insurance Series

(Covered Employees)



Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Series

(Independent Contractors, Sole Proprietors, Self-employed, and Other)



Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

(Additional \$300 Benefit to Claimants in All Programs)



- Claimants who are able to do so, should be actively looking for work while collecting UI benefits. Vermont’s official work search is currently suspended, it is likely to be reinstated in the coming weeks. Employers across the state are reporting job availability in a number of sectors and industries and are actively hiring for a variety of positions. Prior to the Pandemic, UI claimants were required to conduct three official work inquiries each week in order to be eligible for benefits.
- Our Workforce Development team is actively providing outreach and services to unemployed Vermonters to assist with re-employment. More information about the Department’s employment and re-employment efforts can be found online at www.labor.vermont.gov/jobs.

CLAIMS

- Claimants filing for unemployment continue to receive a weekly jobs newsletter with highlighted job opportunities available across Vermont.
 - [March 2, 2021 Newsletter](#)

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Continued Claims Filed							
Week Ending	1/9	1/16	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/13	2/20
Regular UI	12,506	13,257	12,908	13,241	13,150	12,834	12,295
PEUC	10,310	12,742	12,409	12,706	13,232	13,547	13,358
EB	98	94	62	64	52	44	40
PUA	8,429	8,610	8,607	8,713	8,739	8,801	8,650
Total	31,343	34,703	33,986	34,391	35,173	35,226	34,343

Figure 1

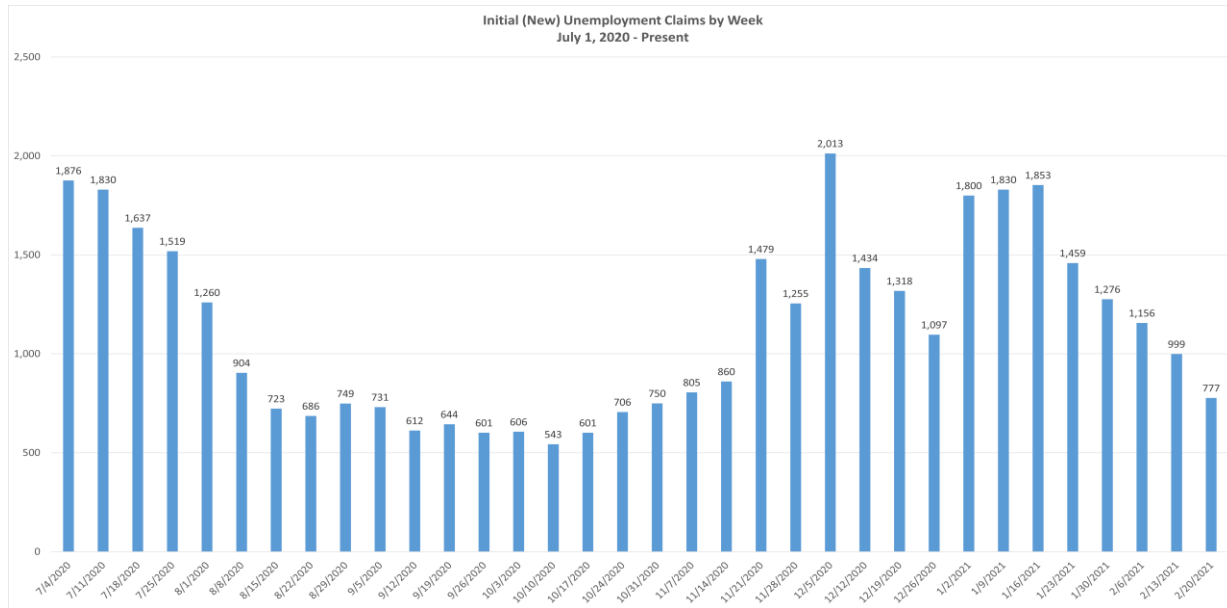
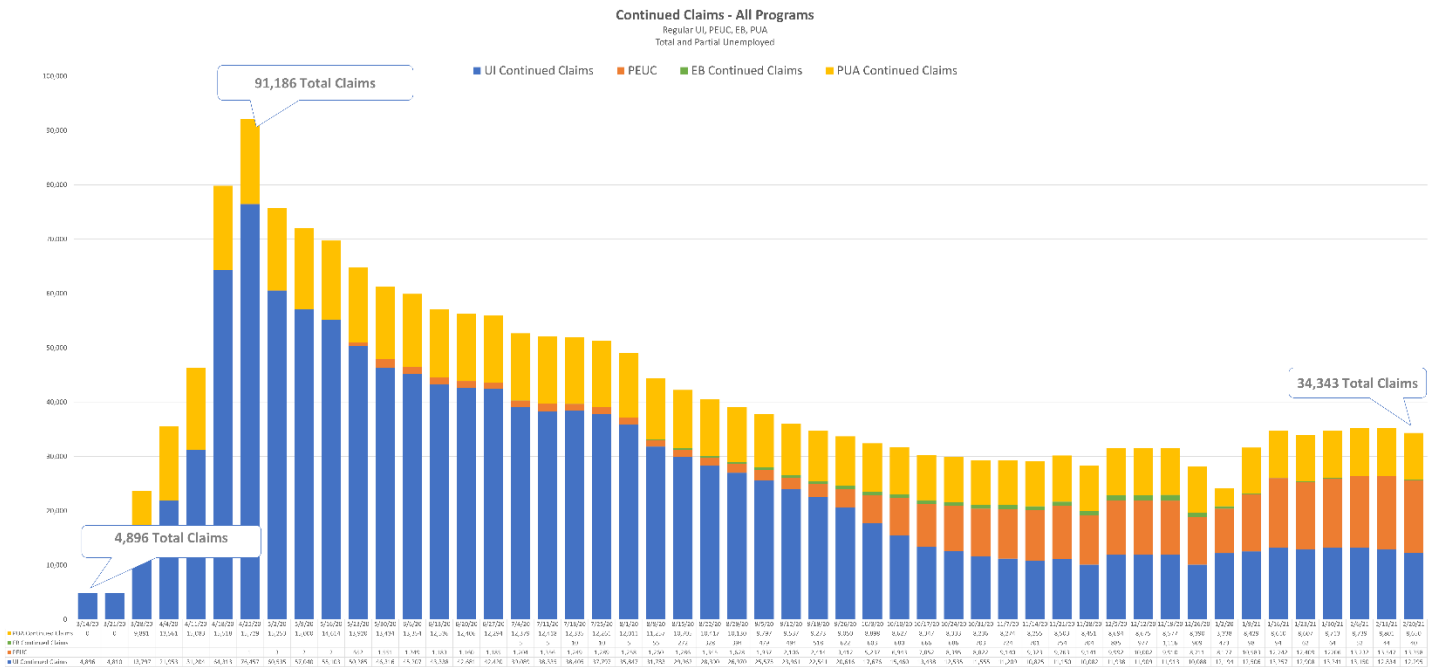


Figure 2



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PAYMENTS

- In total, the Vermont Short Term Supplemental (VSTS) benefit program paid out more than \$14.6MM to more than 33,500 claimants.
- In total, the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program paid out over \$56MM to more than 35,000 claimants.

Claims Payment Processing						
Week Ending	All UI Claims Paid	All UI Payments	PUA Claims Paid*	PUA Payments	Total Payments Issued	Trust Fund Balance
December 26	18,837	\$6,112,174	5,273	\$2,571,462	\$8,683,636	\$243,202,289
January 2	18,797	\$6,459,827	1,258	\$1,017,026	\$7,476,853	\$242,681,331
January 9	21,615	\$7,393,515	13,641	\$7,511,281	\$14,904,796	\$239,890,508
January 16	23,338	\$7,954,465	9,206	\$5,715,889	\$13,670,354	\$237,021,103
January 23	23,195	\$7,827,257	7,736	\$4,762,209	\$12,589,466	\$233,645,327
January 30	23,499	\$7,911,766	8,595	\$5,296,654	\$13,208,420	\$231,866,628
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

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

Figure 6

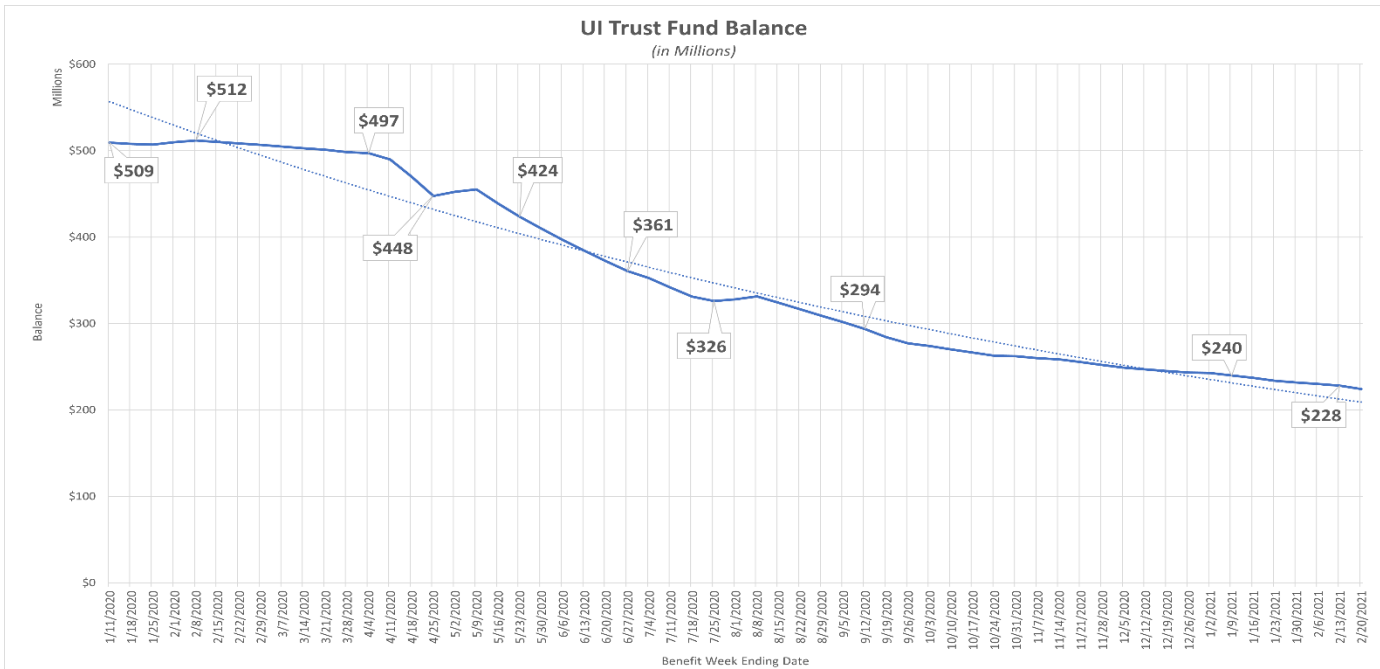


Figure 7

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Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
133	2,403	9:26	2:12

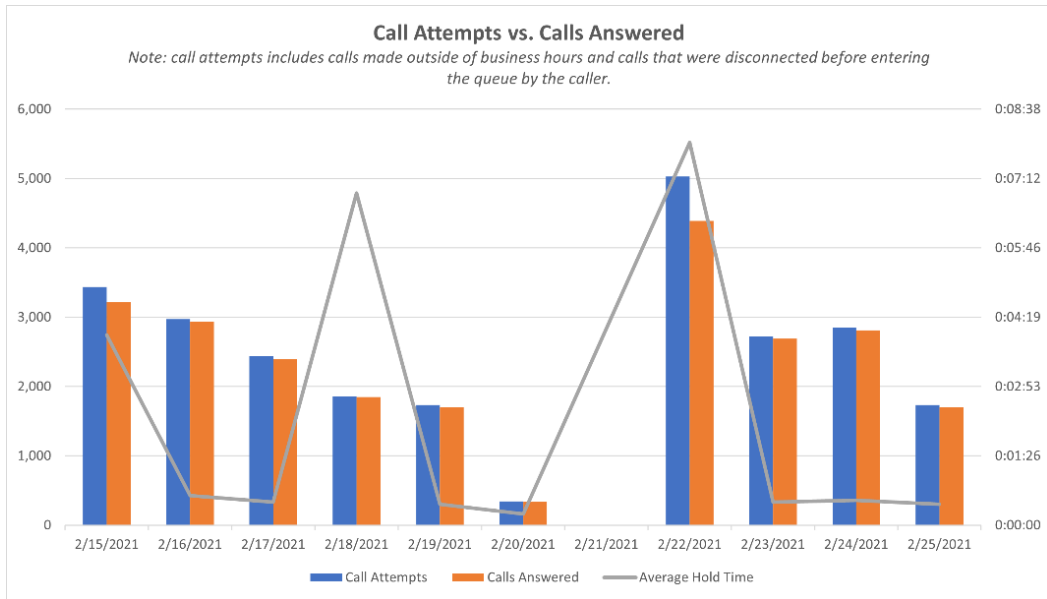


Figure 8

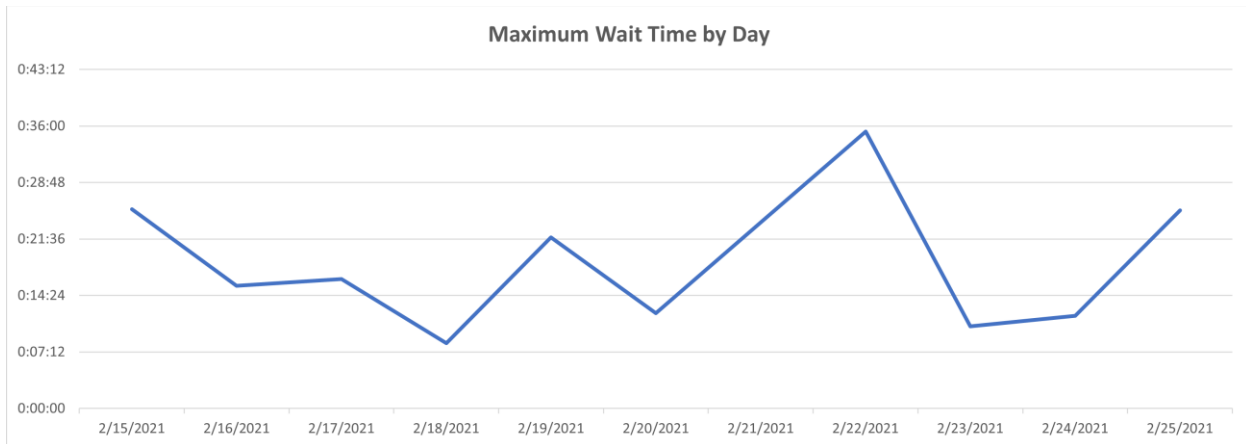
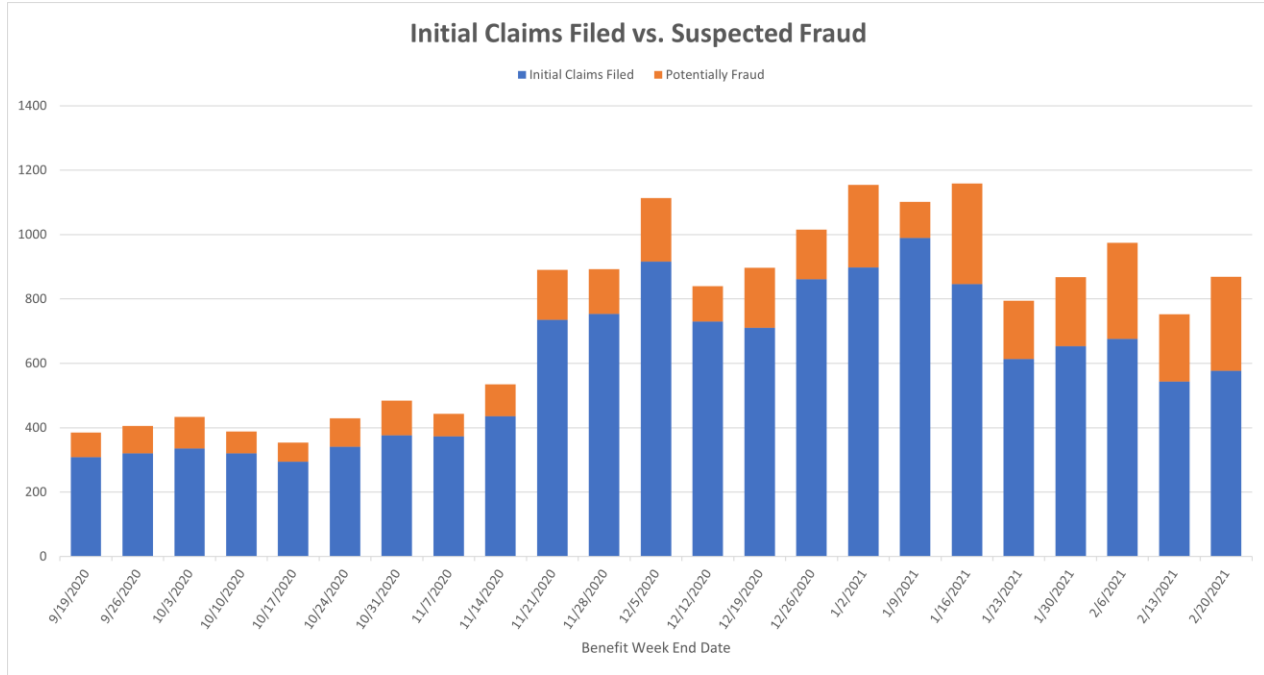


Figure 9

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FRAUD



OTHER RESOURCES

- [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](#)

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