

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: May 18, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

During the benefit week ending May 8th, there were 32,156 weekly claims filed. This is a decrease of 1,748 continued claims filed over the previous benefit week. During the week ending May 8, \$11,439,560 in benefits were paid out to claimants.

Over the weekend, the department identified an issue with the work search requirement which resulted in some claimants being prompted to enter their work search information when they should not have (e.g. they are self-employed) and other instances where claimants should have been prompted to report work search activities but were not. Programming Issues such as this were not unexpected given the many significant changes the UI system has experienced over the last year as well as the many nuances in the requirement created by different federal and state exemptions.

The issue was detected on Sunday when staff began working to rectify the situation. On Monday morning, a statement was posted to both the Department of Labor's website, social media, and was also emailed out to claimants. When the issue is fully resolved, further updates will be provided.

Claimants who were able to file their claim without entering work search information will not be penalized and should continue to conduct work search activities this week to report on their claim next week. Claimants who are waiting for the changes to be made in the system will also not lose out on benefits because of this issue and have until Friday at 4:30pm to file their claim for the week. If there are further programming delays, claimants will be able to submit their claim without being ineligible for the week even if it is after the Friday deadline.

Links and Resources:

- [UI Work Search \(including FAQs\)](#)
- [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](#)

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UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM

Continued Claims Filed								
Week Ending	3/20	3/27	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24	5/1	5/8
Regular UI	11,074	10,548	10,041	11,407	11,594	11,522	12,595	12,135
PEUC	13,981	12,307	9,912	10,352	10,699	10,670	10,826	10,558
EB	19	6	6	6	5	5	3	5
PUA	8,714	8,700	8,766	8763	9,412	10,364	10,480	9,458
Total	33,788	31,561	28,725	30,528	31,710	32,561	33,904	32,156

Figure 1

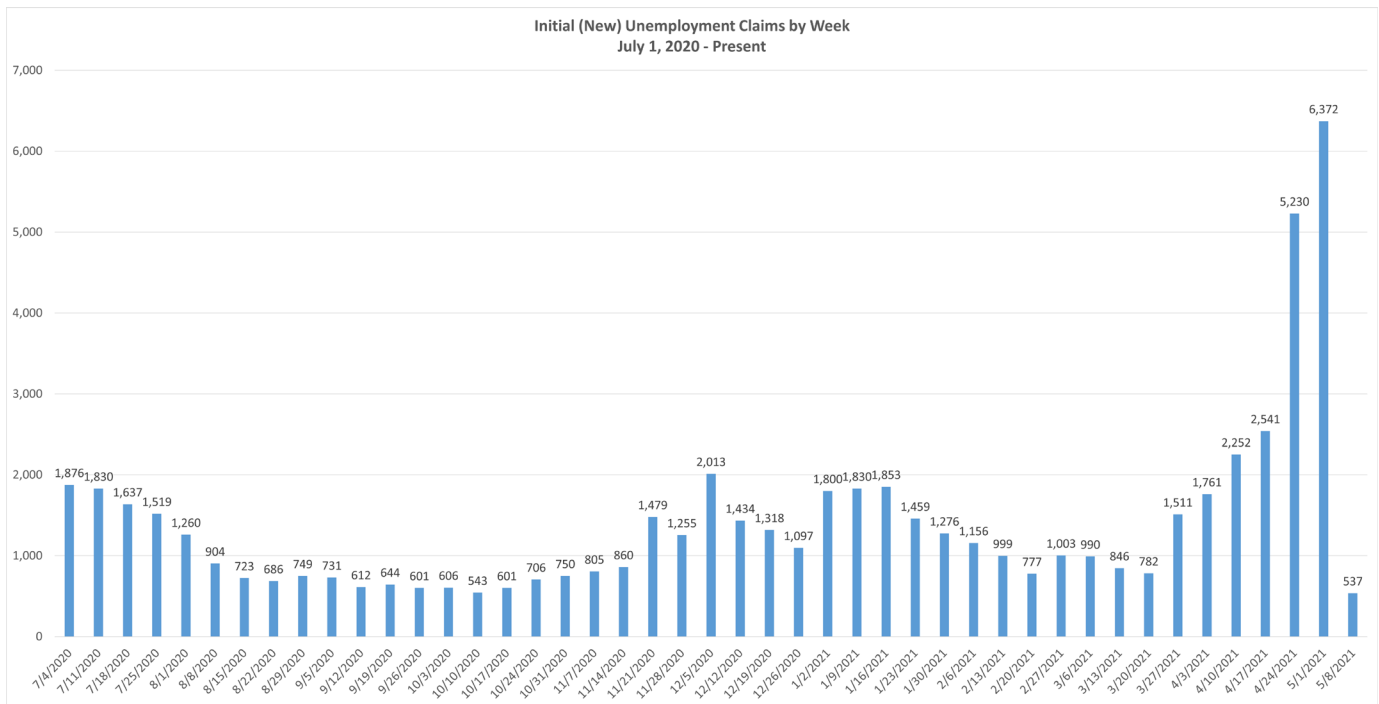


Figure 2

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.

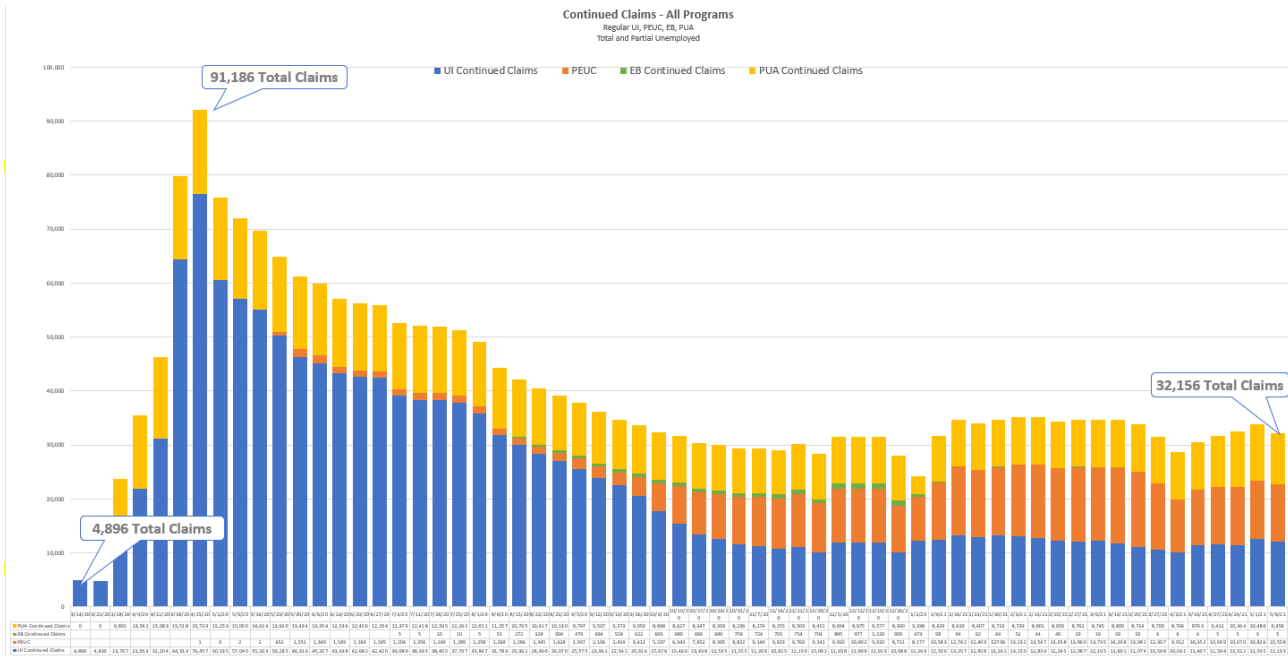


Figure 3

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
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
April 24	19,696	\$6,643,846	9,289	\$6,479,552	\$13,123,398	\$199,587,137
May 1	20,027	\$6,790,786	6,914	\$4,506,283	\$11,297,069	\$221,440,383
May 8	19,221	\$6,374,974	8,477	\$5,064,586	\$11,439,560	\$222,535,621

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

Figure 4

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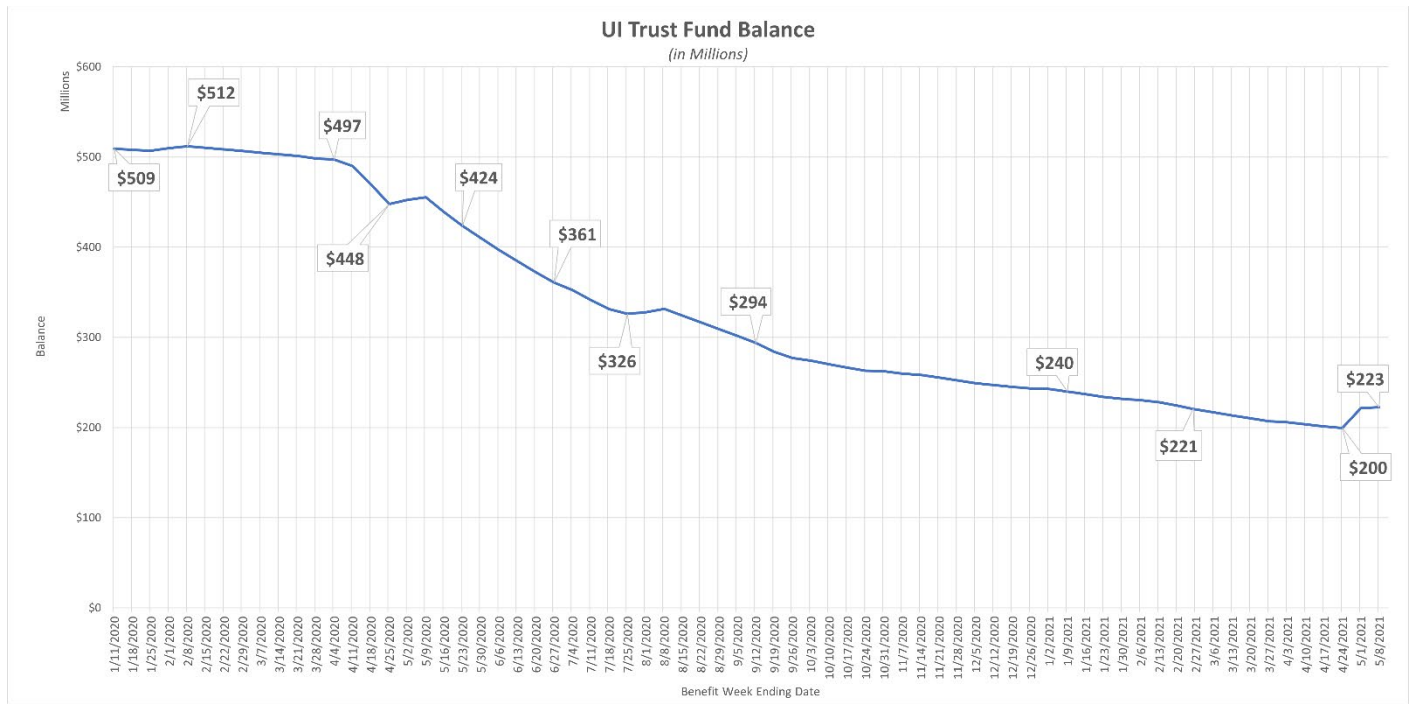


Figure 5

*the increase in the UI Trust Fund balance is attributed to Q1 contributions made by employers.

CALL VOLUME

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
100	3,457	11:39	10:22

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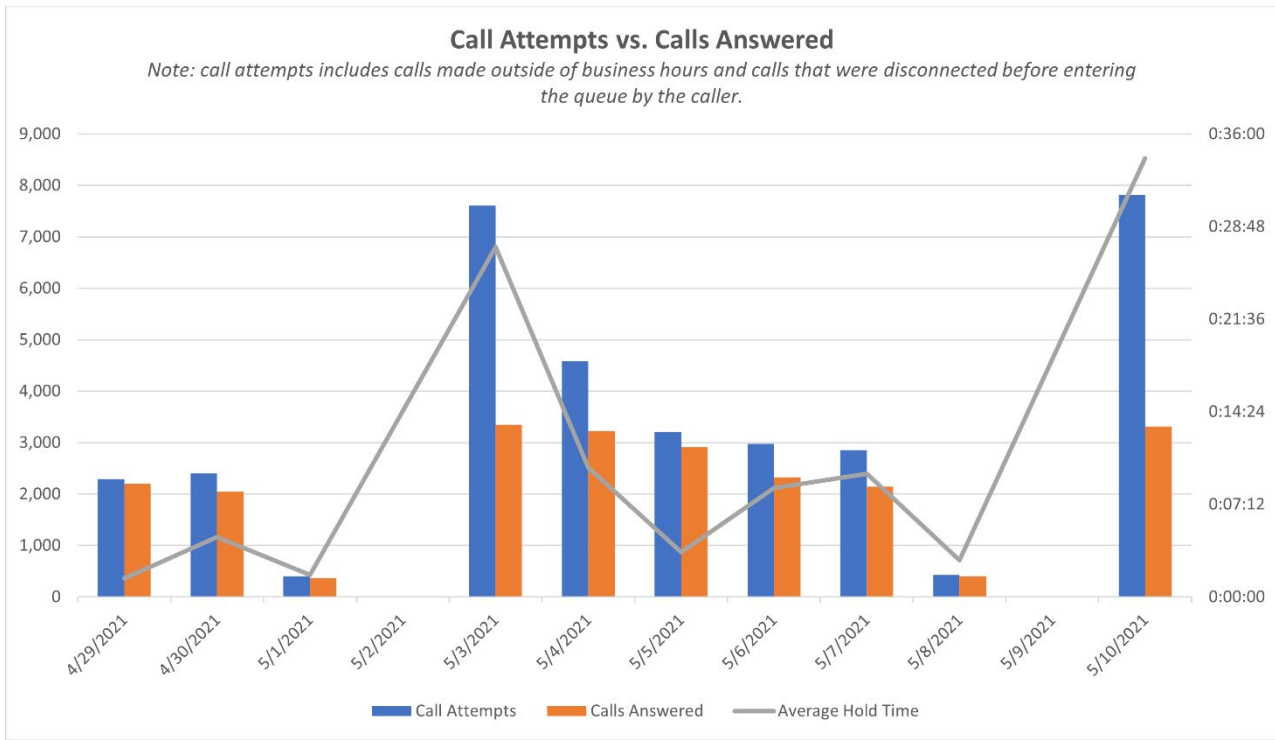


Figure 6

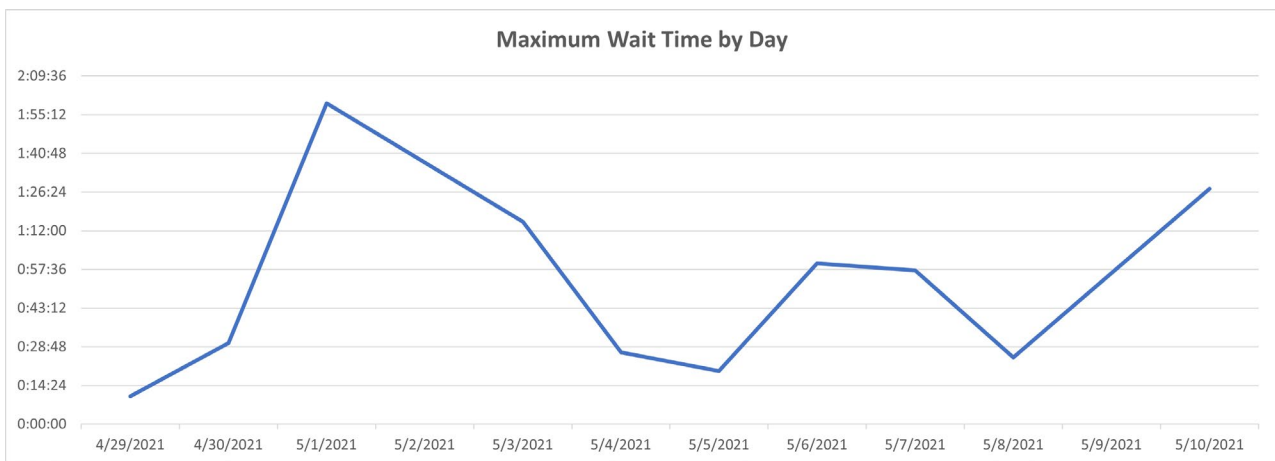


Figure 7

FRAUD DETECTION

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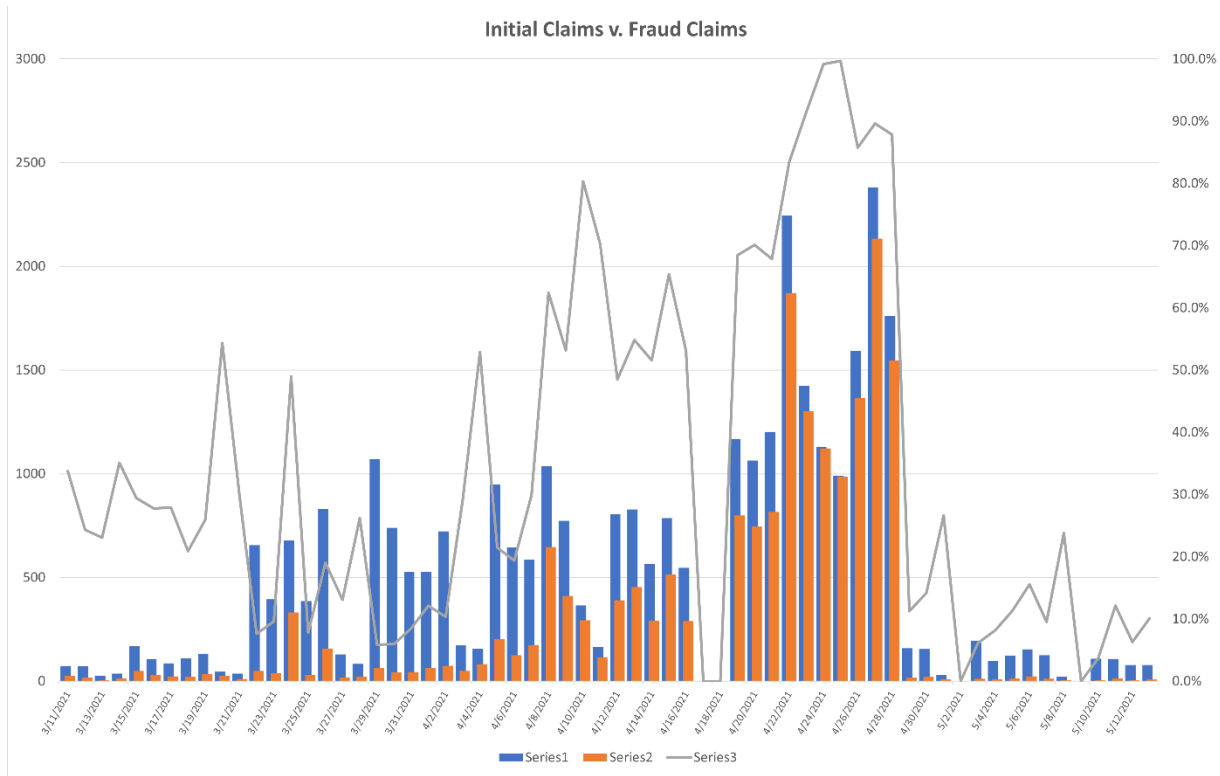


Figure 8

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