

To: Vermont Legislature
From: Michael Harrington, Labor Commissioner
Date: August 19, 2020
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

This report includes both new and continuing efforts. New information is in **RED**.

Lost Wage Assistance Program (LWA)

- We are currently drafting the FEMA application which is scheduled to be submitted this week. Vermont's application will indicate that the state is planning for a \$300 (state match included) benefit. Any additional benefits, paid for by CRF funds, will be allocated by the Legislature and provided in addition to the LWA \$300 benefit. To be eligible for the program, claimants must have an established weekly benefit amount of \$100 or more and certify that they are unemployed a direct result COVID-19 as outlined by USDOL.

The Department continues to receive additional program requirements every couple of days. Once we feel as though we have a relatively complete list of requirements, we can begin making the mainframe adjustments and implementing a plan for processing benefits.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

- No new updates are available at this time. Congress remains at an impasse.

Unemployment Extended Benefits

- The Department has implemented the high Extended Benefits program which will provide an additional 20 weeks of benefits to eligible UI claimants, but only after regular UI and PEUC benefits are exhausted.

Claim Issues

- The Department is expanding its use of the Claimant Inquiry Tool. Claimants that contact the claimant assistance center with an issue that cannot be resolved within 24-hours will be moved to the Inquiry Tool and a specialist will be assigned to their case. The Claimant Assistance Center can be reached at 877-214-3332.

UI Fraud

- Individuals who believe a fraudulent claim has been filed using their personal information should notify the Department of Labor at 802-828-4101. This line is exclusively for fraud reports. More information about fraud and the ability to submit online reports is available at: <https://labor.vermont.gov/ui-fraud>.

Claims Adjudications and Appeals

- The Department continues its effort to shorten the amount of time that it takes to make a determination as part of the required adjudication process. As part of this effort, the Department is expanding the number of "fact-finders" it will use to gather information and documentation about a claim, so as to expedite the determination process.

Reimbursable Employer Charge Relief

- On August 3rd the President signed S.4209, which will provide immediate relief for reimbursable employers. Instead of reimbursable employers being required to pay 100% of their UI liabilities upfront, just to be reimbursed half, this bill allows reimbursable employers to only pay 50% of their liability.
- The Department is actively working to implement the necessary steps to allow for the 50% charge relief and contribution processes.

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.

APPENDIX

Popular Links:

- [Click here for PUA general information](#)
- [Click here for PUA FAQs](#)
- [Click here for PUA application video demonstration](#)
- [Click here for unemployment general information](#)
- [Click here for frequently asked questions](#)
- [Click here for Return to Work Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Traditional Unemployment Insurance (TUI)

*Numbers as of Wednesday, August 19, 2020		
Total Initial Claimants Filed	118,775	Total Number of Initial Claimants.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI	80,856	Number of claimants eligible for UI.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Paid	73,407	Number of claimants who are receiving, or have received, UI benefits.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Not Paid	7,449	Number of claimants who meet basic eligibility thresholds, and who either have issues on their claim or are no longer filing.
UI Trust Fund Balance	\$306,526,728	Trust Fund balance can fluctuate due to benefit payments, earned interest, employer contributions, and federal reimbursements. (Note: Balance as of 3/1/2020 \$506,157,247)

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

*Numbers as of Wednesday, August 19, 2020		
Claimants Potentially PUA Eligible	31,692	Total number of claimants that could complete the PUA application and are in the system
Claimants in PUA – Filed	23,191	# of claimants who have completed the PUA application
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Eligible	20,129	# of eligible claimants
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Ineligible	3,062	# of ineligible claimants
Claimants Eligible for PUA - Filed and Paid	18,173	# of eligible claimants receiving PUA benefit.
Claimants in PUA -Filed and Not Paid	1,956	# of claimants that have a payment pending, issue on weekly claim to resolve, or have returned to work and are not filing.
Total PUA Benefits Dispersed	\$185,798,439	Total amount of PUA benefits paid

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 1.1

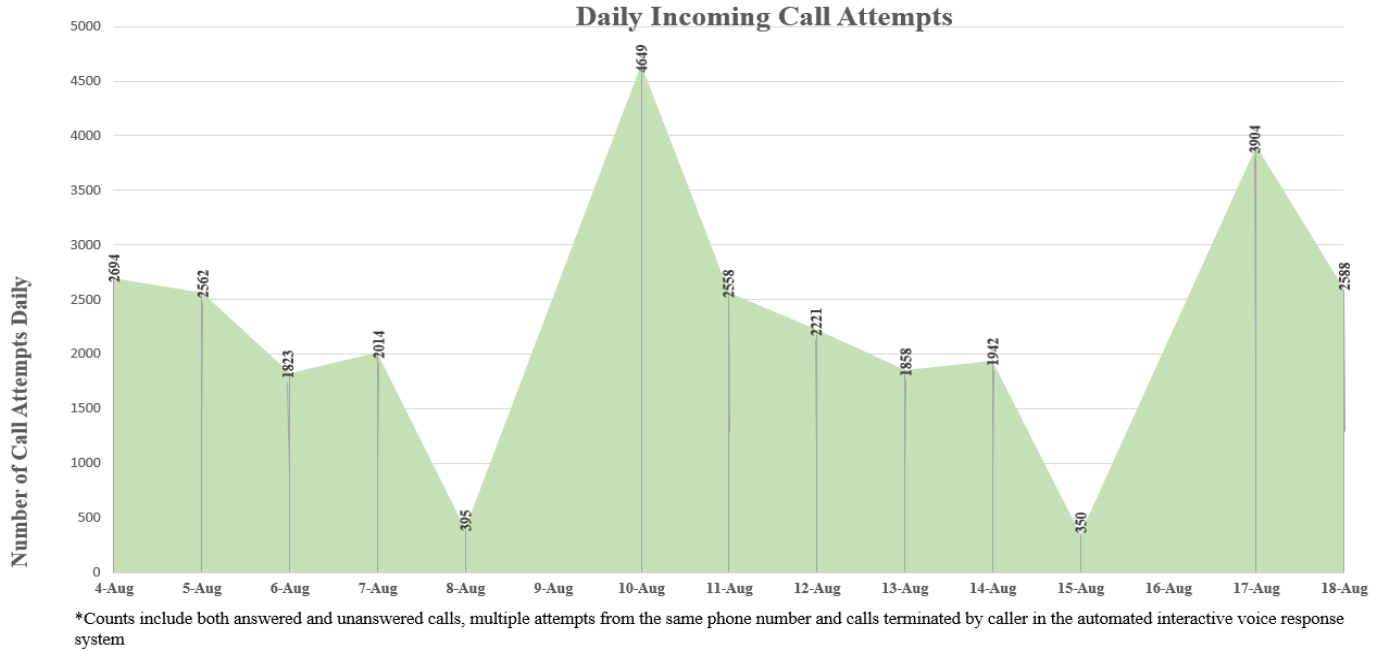
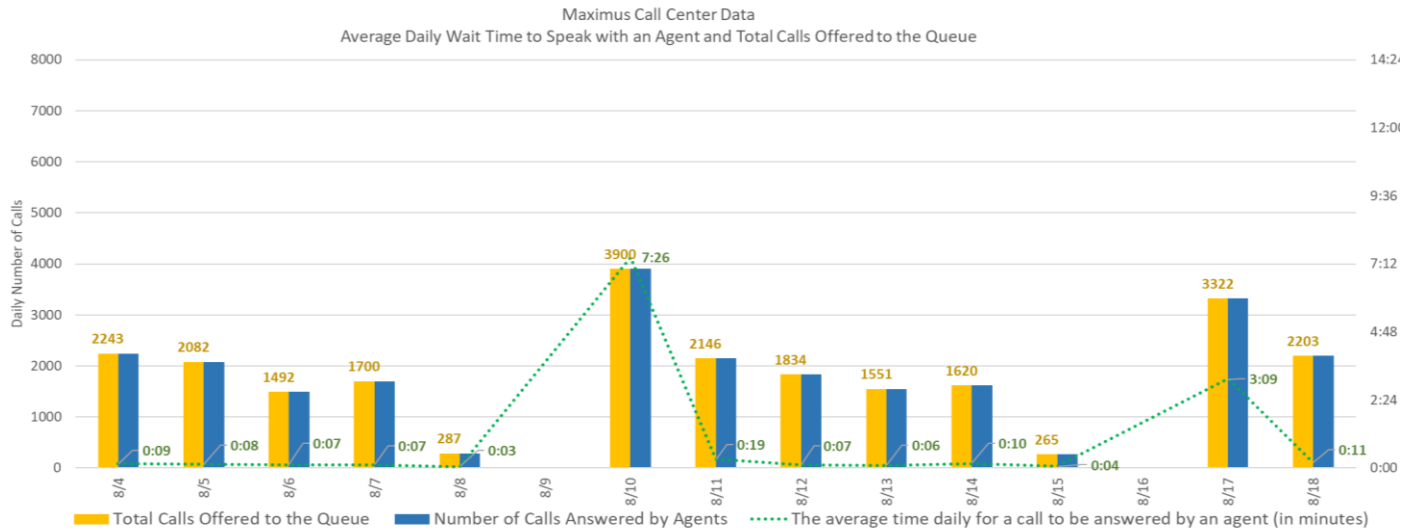
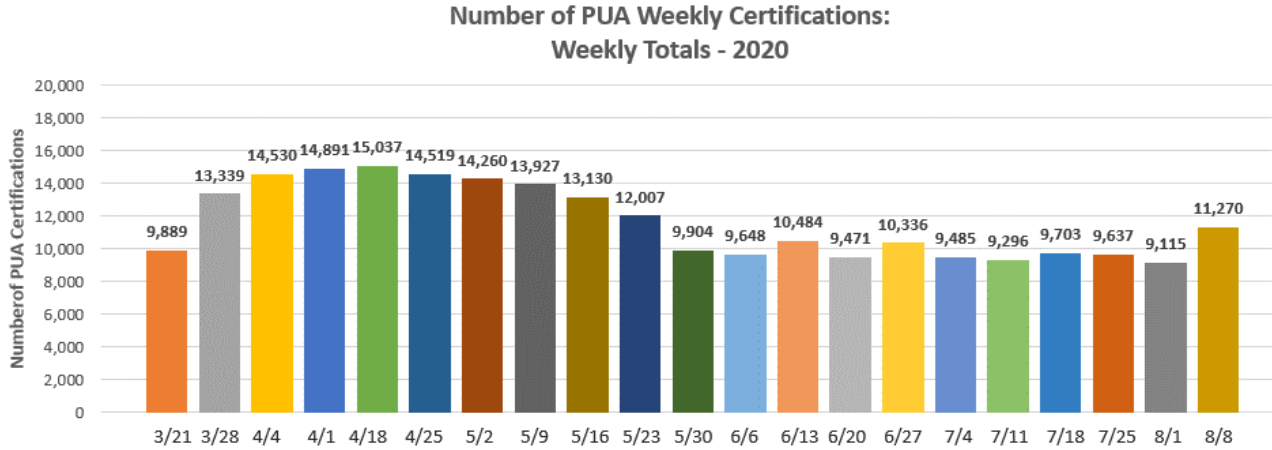


Figure 1.2



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 2.1



**Number of Weekly UI Certifications (Continued Claims)
Weekly Totals - 2020**

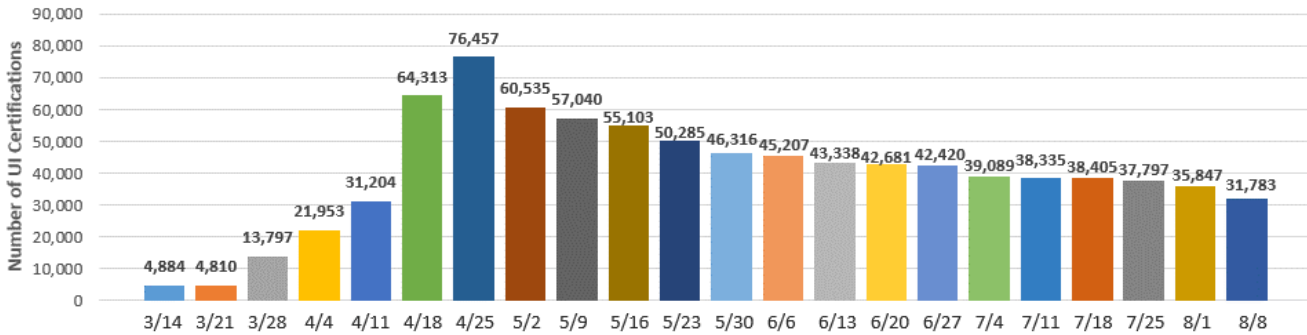
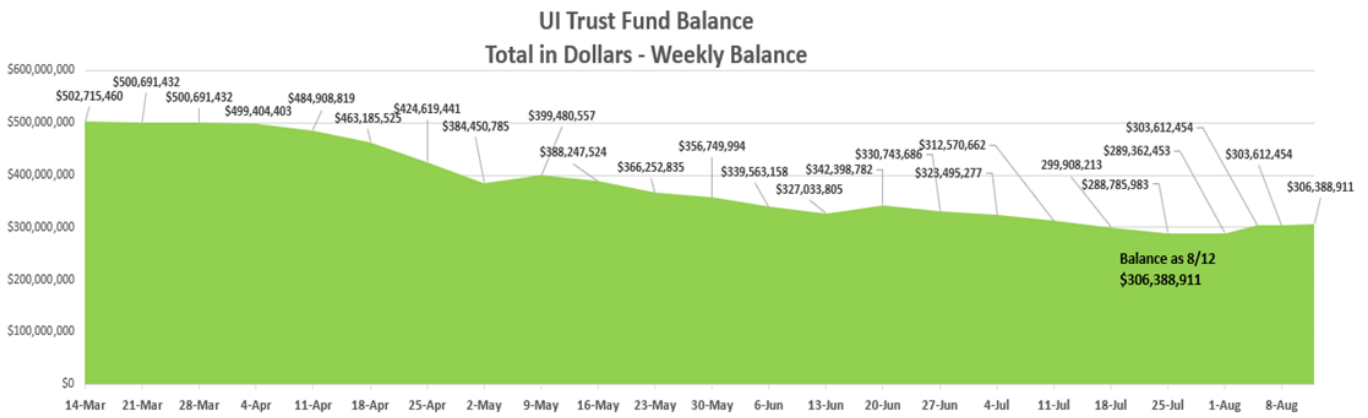


Figure 2.2



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.