

**To:** Vermont Legislature  
**From:** Michael Harrington, Labor Commissioner  
**Date:** July 7, 2020  
**Subject:** Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

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

#### **Past Activities**

- 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. This program, while live, is still being reviewed and adjustments are being made as necessary.
- There were delays in processing some initial claims and weekly claims because of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. Those jobs ran successfully on Monday evening, and claimants can continue to file weekly claims as they normally would.
- The UI Annual Determination mainframe updates will be implemented Tuesday evening and over the course of the next week. This will increase the maximum Weekly Benefit Amount to \$531 for claimants who meet the maximum eligibility criteria.

#### **Ongoing Operations**

- The Department is actively investigating fraud as it is reported by individuals and through data analytics. We have seen fraud continue to increase and are working with our State and Federal partners to investigate cases in a timely and effective manner. 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>.
- The Department continues to provide ongoing training and guidance for Maximus agents to continuously improve UI call center services.
- Efforts to update and improve the PUA application and services are ongoing and are being implemented following a prioritization schedule.

#### **Future Operations**

- The Department expects a steady increase in cases needing to be adjudicated and appealed. This is in line with the unemployment processing of claims and the natural progression of contested cases; however, given the volume of initial claims, the Department will be looking at ways to expand resources in these areas to ensure timely processing. It is important to note that the Department has received limited federal funding for the expansion of general UI administration, including adjudications and appeals. Simultaneously, effective adjudication and appeals processing requires highly training and qualified staff known as UI Merit Staff by the US Department of Labor.

**Traditional Unemployment Insurance (TUI)**

<b>*Numbers as of Monday, July 6</b>		
Total Initial Claimants Filed	<b>109,578</b>	Total Number of Initial Claimants.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI	<b>77,104</b>	Number of claimants eligible for UI.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Paid	<b>69,836</b>	Number of claimants who are receiving, or have received, UI benefits.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Not Paid	<b>7,268</b>	Number of claimants who meet basic eligibility thresholds, and who either have issues on their claim or <b>are no longer filing.</b>
UI Trust Fund Balance	<b>\$323,495,277</b>	Trust Fund balance can fluctuate due to benefit payments, earned interest, employer contributions, and federal reimbursements. (Note: Balance as of 3/1/2020 <b>\$506,157,247</b> )

**Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**

<b>*Numbers as of Monday, July 6</b>		
Claimants Potentially PUA Eligible	<b>28,623</b>	Total number of claimants that could complete the PUA application and are in the system
Claimants in PUA – Filed	<b>20,623</b>	# of claimants who have completed the PUA application
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Eligible	<b>19,089</b>	# of eligible claimants
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Ineligible	<b>954</b>	# of ineligible claimants
Claimants Eligible for PUA - Filed and Paid	<b>16,850</b>	# of eligible claimants receiving PUA benefit.
Claimants in PUA -Filed and Not Paid	<b>2,239</b>	# 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	<b>\$140,103,194</b>	Total amount of PUA benefits paid

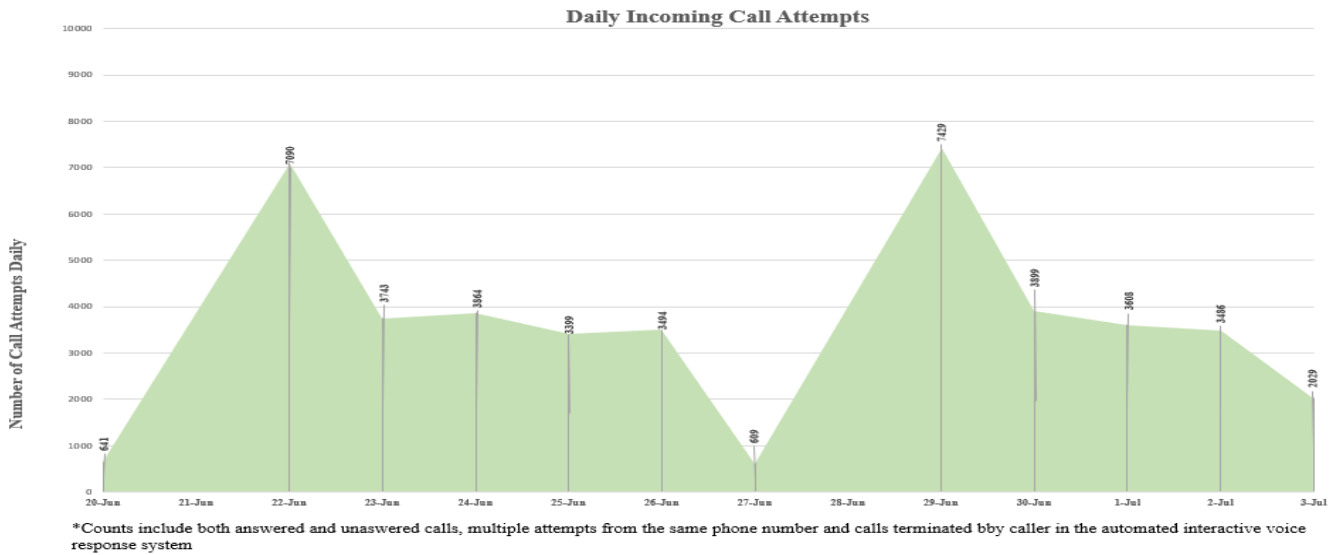
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**APPENDIX**

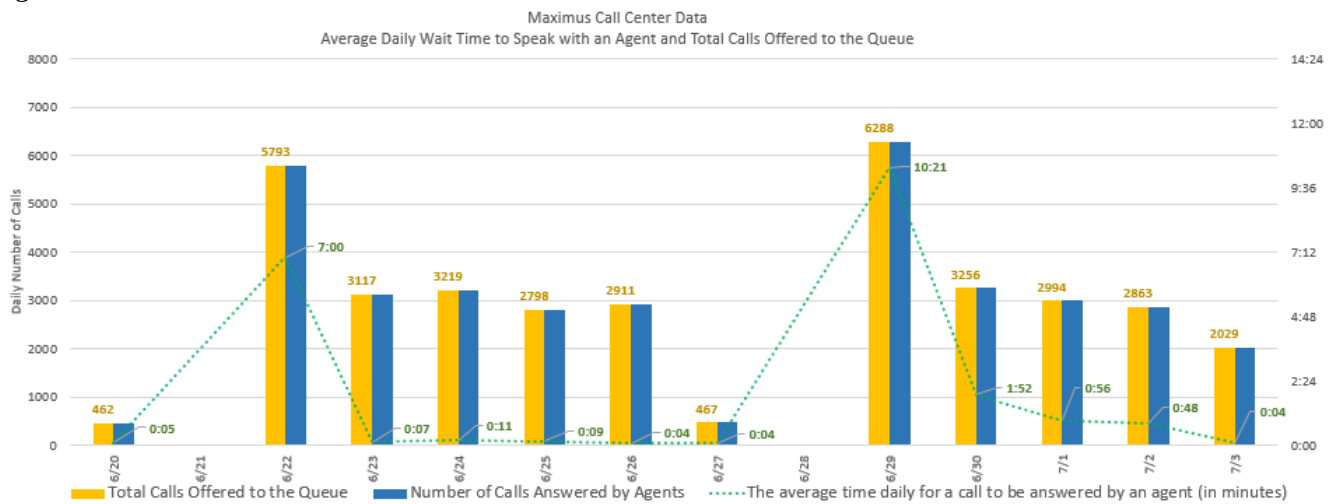
**Popular Links:**

- [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](#)

**Figure 1.1**

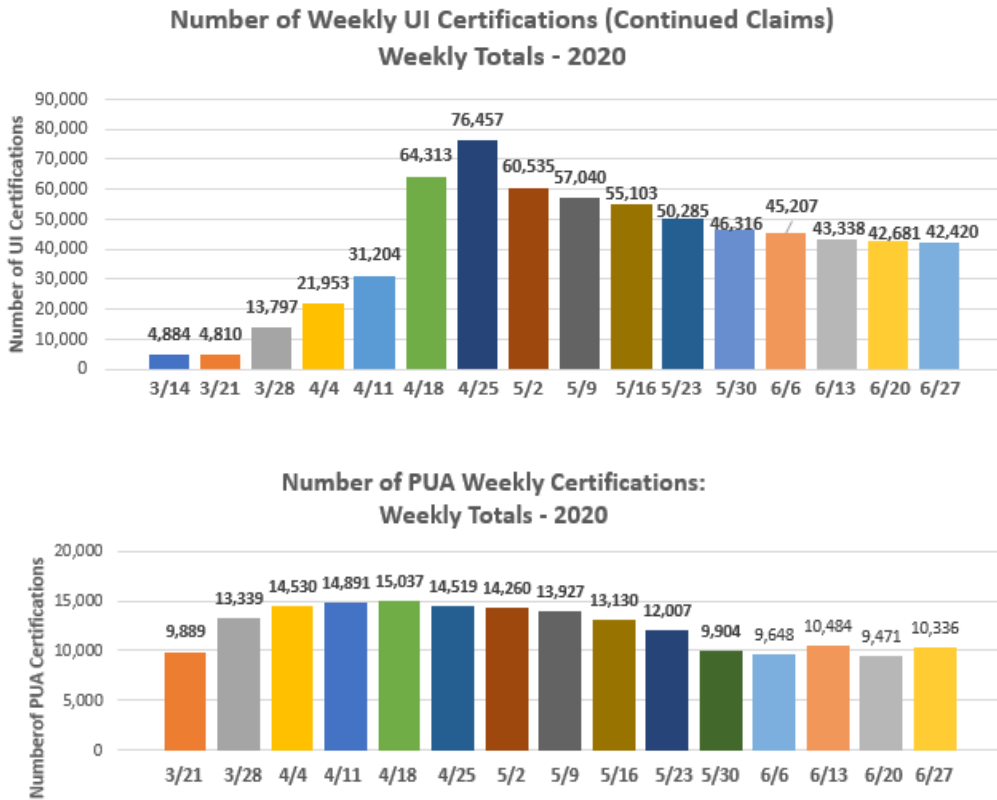


**Figure 1.2**

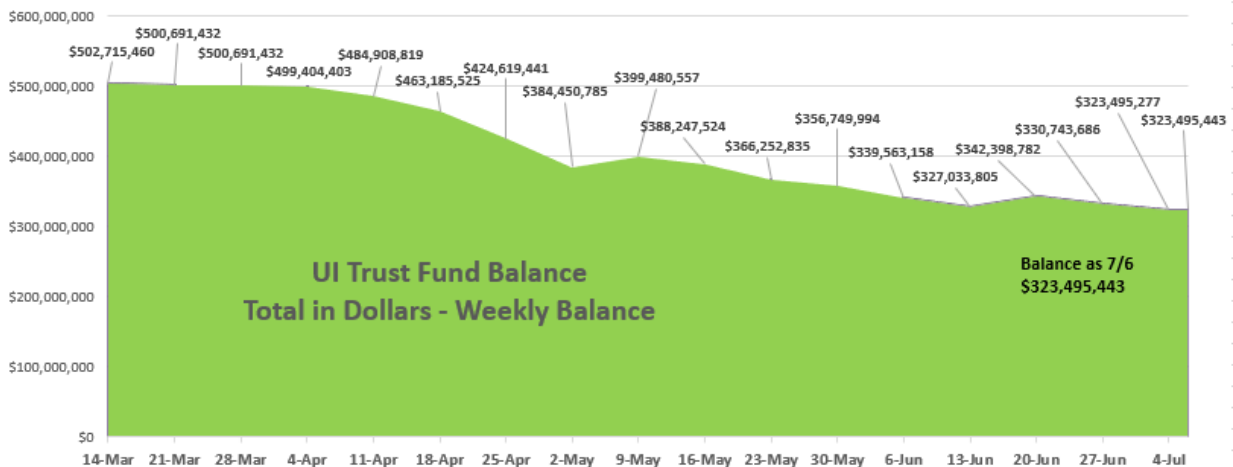


*The data presented in this publication represents unofficial information collected from a variety of sources, and is being provided in order to ensure transparency, the freedom of information, and a well-informed public. While it is accurate to the extent ascertainable by the Department at the time 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**



**Figure 2.2**



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