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**To:** Vermont General Assembly  
**From:** Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor  
**Date:** February 23, 2021  
**Subject:** Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

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## 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 \(2.23.21\)](#)
- **Recapture Update**
  - Recall notices were mailed to individuals who received a 1099-G document. This notice gives a summary of the incident and includes instructions on how to return the initial 1099 document to the Department utilizing the self-addressed and pre-stamped envelope that is included.
  - We are aware that the prepaid envelopes are slightly smaller than the 1099 documents, requiring claimants to fold the document in order 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. Claimants have already begun to receive this letter, and as of February 22, 2021, 85 individuals had enrolled in ID protection.
- **Reissuing Correct 1099-Gs Update:**
  - We are continuing to work through quality validation checks to be sure the corrected 1099-Gs include accurate information and BGS has begun the printing of 1099s. The Department of Labor will conduct a final validation check on samples from each of the print jobs before the documents are finalized and mailed.
  - Claimants will also receive a “pre-1099” letter that provides additional information and guidance for claimants. Specifically, that claimants should expect to receive multiple 1099 documents if they received benefit from more than one program. The letter also explains how claimants can identify what program the each 1099 is for, as well as what they should do if the information on the 1099 is incorrect.
  - The Department expects to have the new 1099s delivered to the post office on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, if not before.
- 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 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/>.

*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.*

## 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](http://www.labor.vermont.gov/jobs).

## CLAIMS

- Claimants filing for unemployment continue to receive a weekly jobs newsletter with highlighted job opportunities available across Vermont.
  - [February 22, 2021 Newsletter](#)

Continued Claims Filed							
Week Ending	1/2	1/9	1/16	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/13
<b>Regular UI</b>	12,194	12,506	13,257	12,908	13,241	13,150	<b>12,834</b>
<b>PEUC (Tier I)</b>	8,055	10,310	12,742	12,409	12,706	13,232	<b>13,547</b>
<b>EB</b>	473	98	94	62	64	52	<b>44</b>
<b>PUA</b>	3,338	8,429	8,610	8,607	8,713	8,739	<b>8,801</b>
<b>Total</b>	24,087	31,343	34,703	33,986	34,391	35,173	<b>35,226</b>

Figure 1

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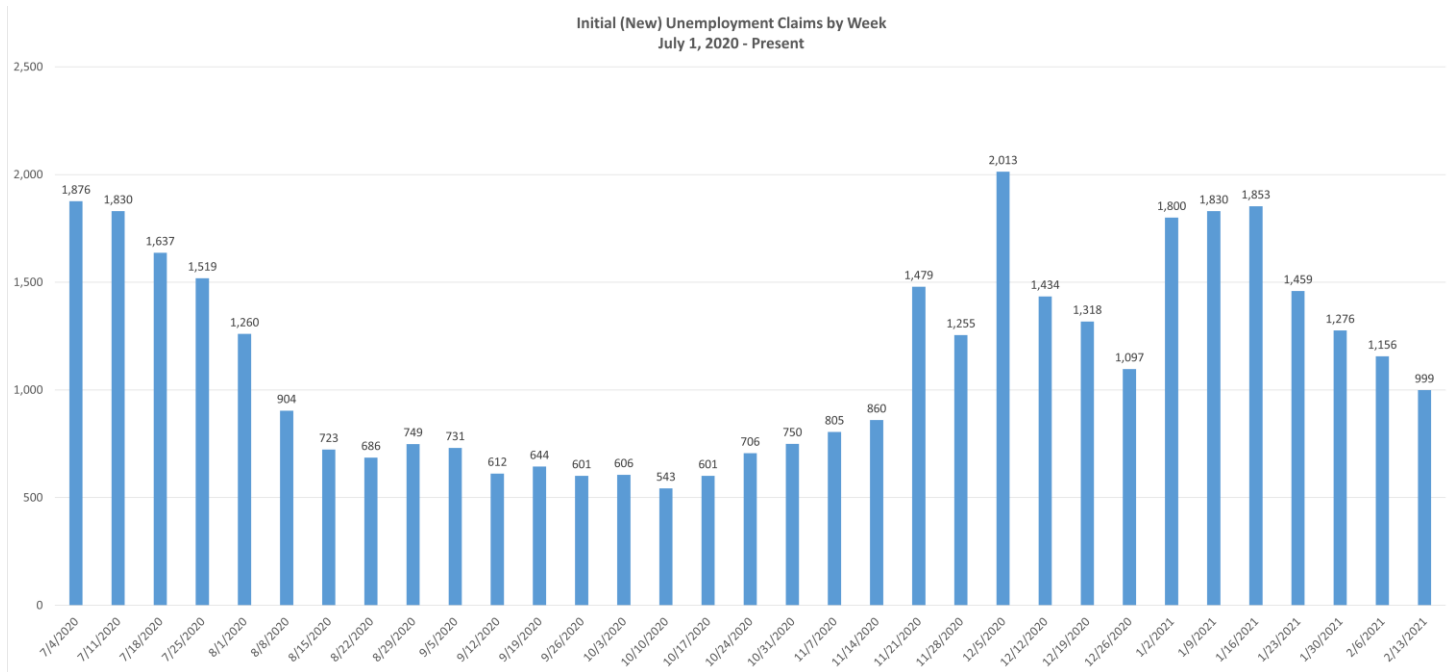


Figure 2

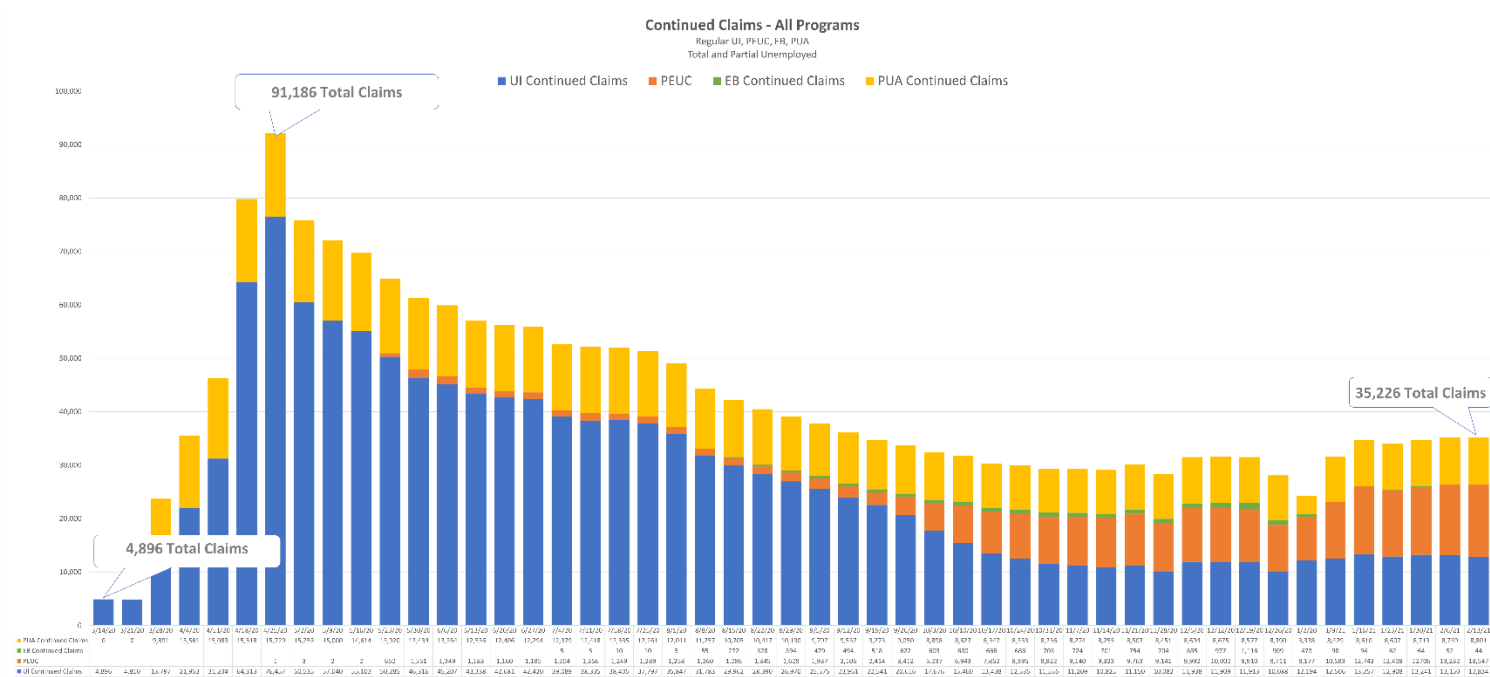


Figure 3

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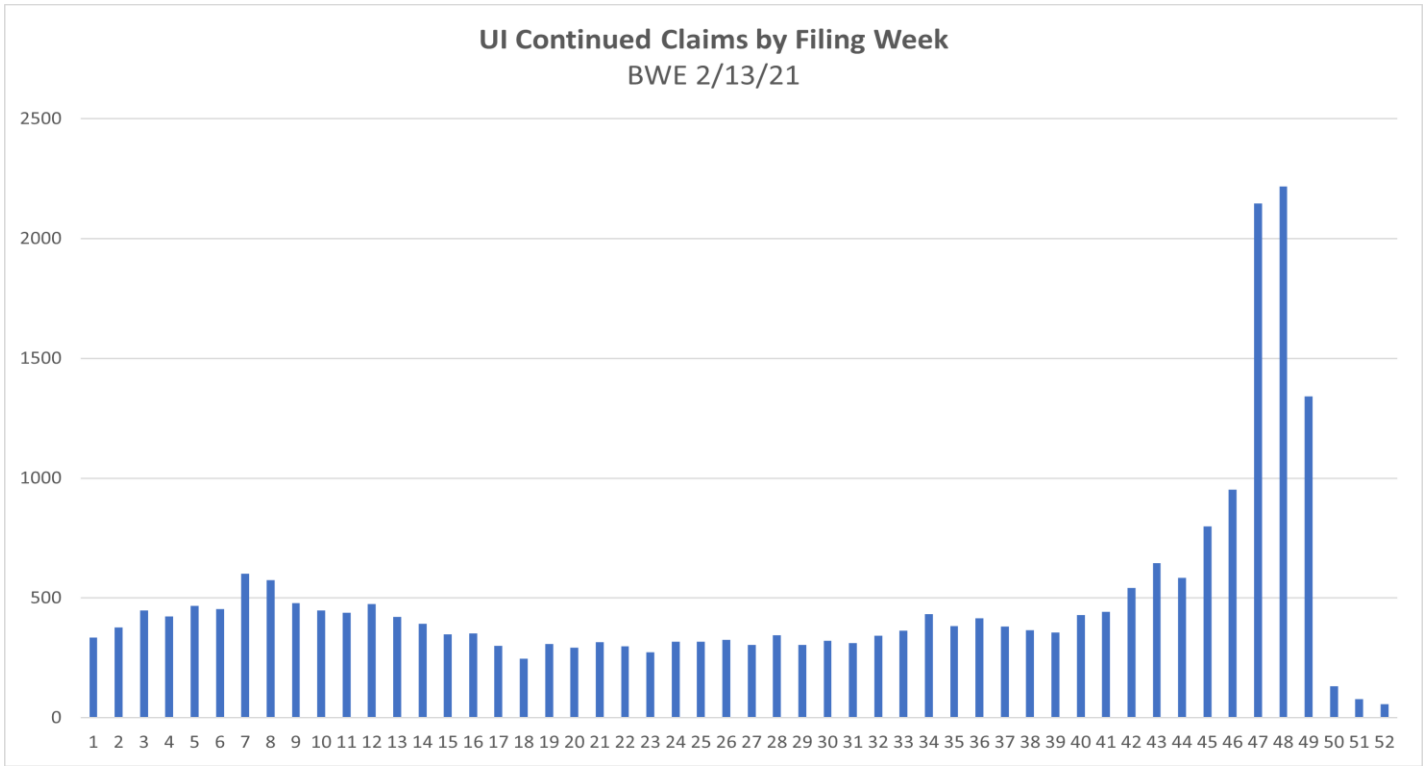


Figure 4

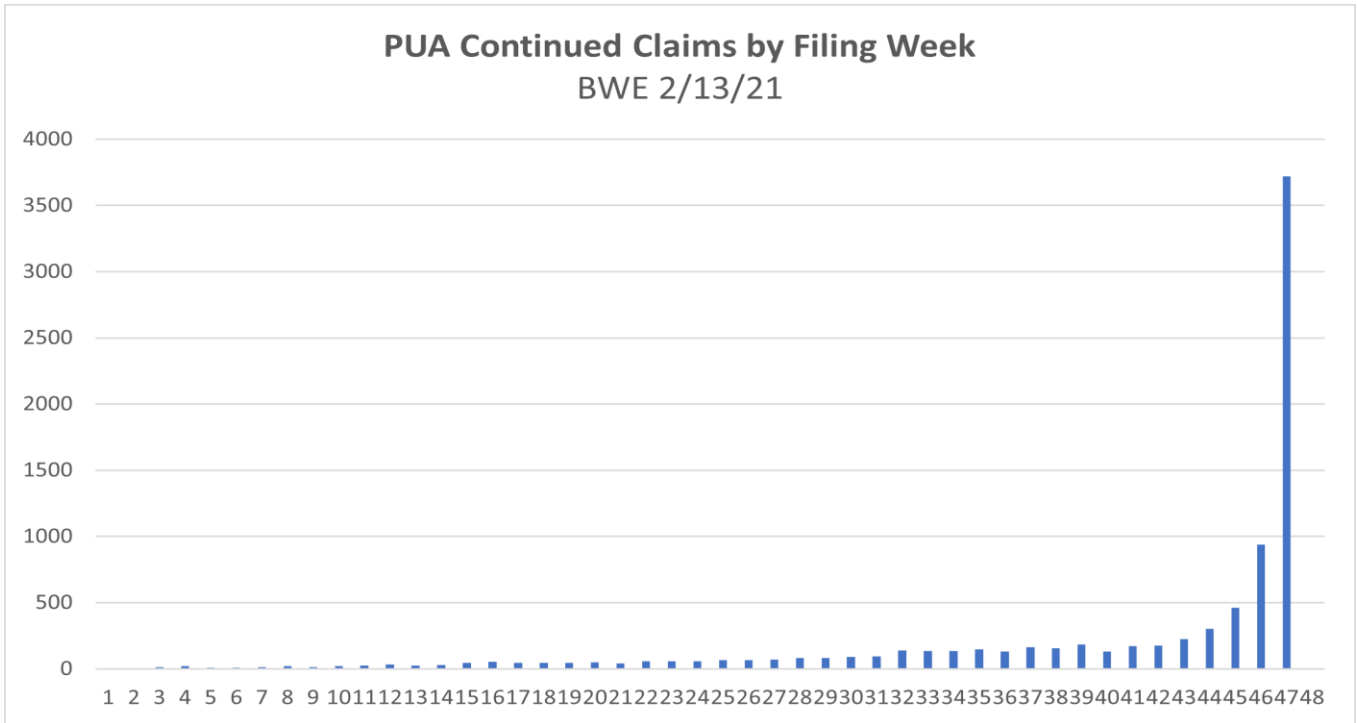


Figure 5

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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 19	21,019	\$7,072,397	8,264	\$2,691,133	\$9,763,530	\$245,080,698
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	<b>24,231</b>	<b>\$8,201,345</b>	<b>9,382</b>	<b>\$5,656,278</b>	<b>\$13,857,623</b>	<b>\$228,073,511</b>

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

Figure 6

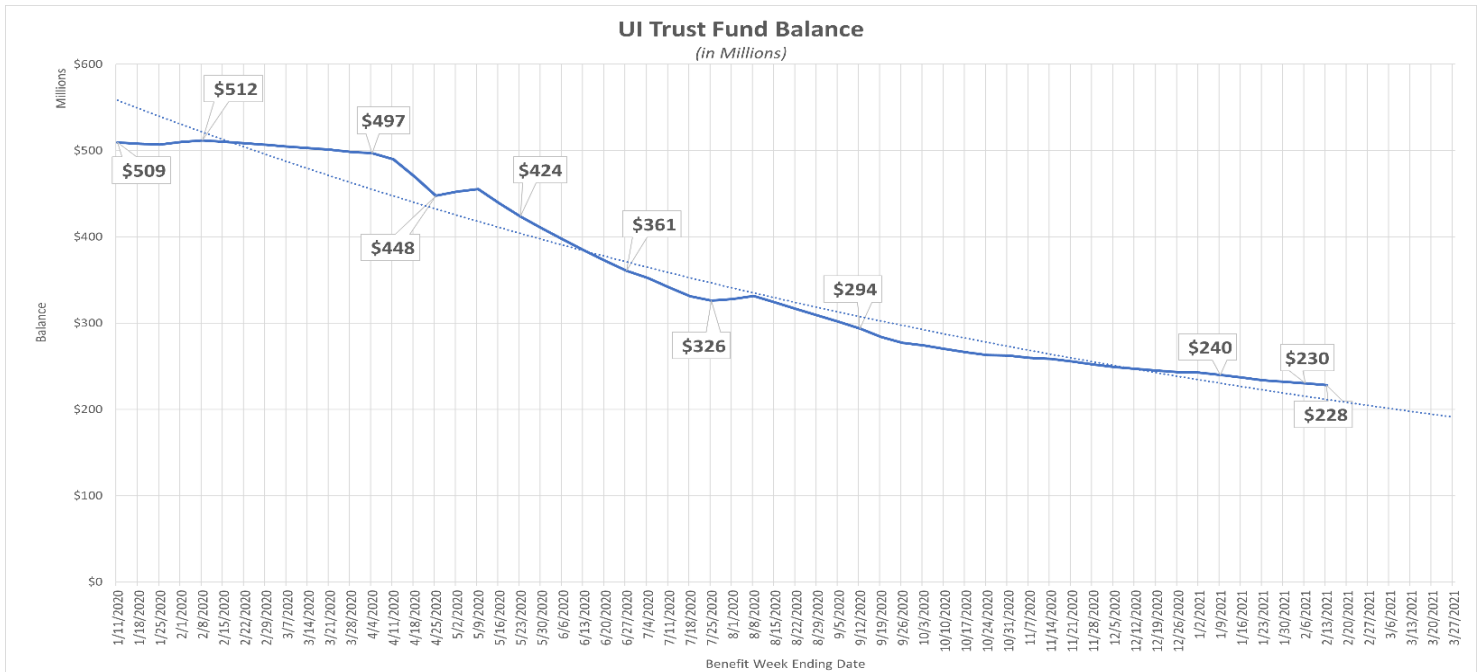


Figure 7

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Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
133	2,948	9:45	3:48

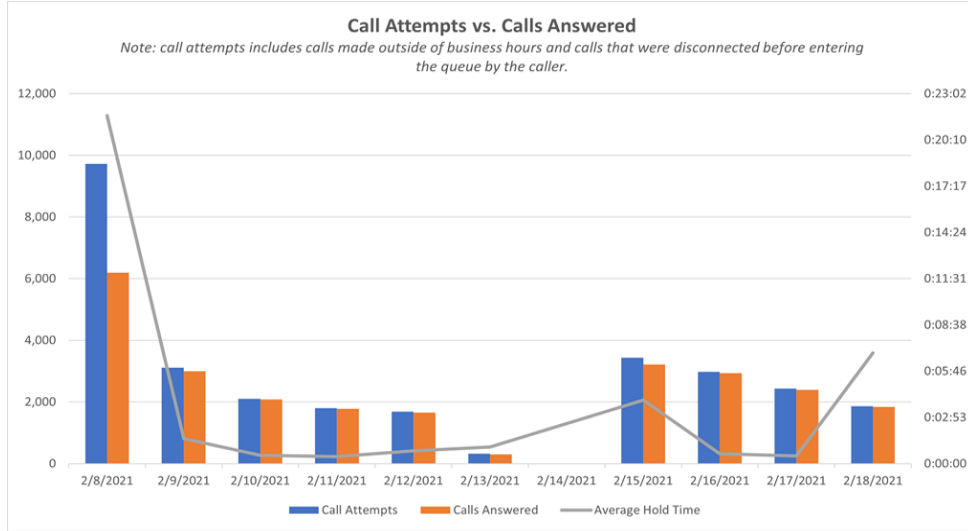


Figure 8

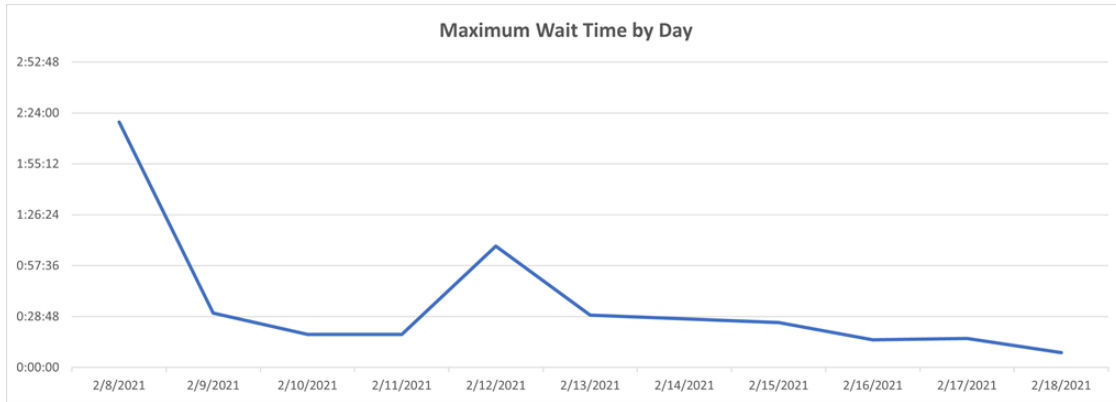


Figure 9

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## 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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