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Department of Labor
Office of the Commissioner

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To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: April 20, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

Executive Summary:

During the benefit week ending April 10, there were 30,528 weekly claims filed. This is an increase of 1,803 over the previous benefit week. During the week ending April 10, \$10,911,937 in benefits were paid out to claimants. Additionally, the Department released the unemployment rate for March 2021 last week. The seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate for March was 2.9%, a decrease of 0.1% from the prior month.

Recently, the Department has seen the number of suspicious initial unemployment insurance claims being filed increase exponentially. The Department has implemented various processes to detect potentially fraudulent claims to stop the claim before the fraudster attempts to file weekly claims and receive benefits. However, Vermonters, both those filing for unemployment and those who are employed, are encouraged to closely monitor accounts, email, and mail for any suspicious activity. If claimants receive any correspondence from the Department that seems suspicious or fraudulent in nature, they should contact the Department immediately to report it as fraud by submitting a fraud report ([link below](#)) or by calling the UI fraud tip line at 802-828-4104.

Claimants who have not yet enrolled in the IDX identity protection may still do so. In total, there were 98,719 individuals eligible to enroll in the IDX Identity Protection service being offered by the Department to those included in the 1099 incident. As of April 19, there were 12,878 individuals who had enrolled in the protection.

Links and Resources:

- [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](#)
- [1099-G Incident FAQs](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Continued Claims Filed								
Week Ending	2/20	2/27	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27	4/3	4/10
Regular UI	12,295	12,087	12,195	11,691	11,074	10,548	10,041	11,407
PEUC	13,358	13,860	13,735	14,208	13,981	12,307	9,912	10,352
EB	40	29	19	33	19	6	6	6
PUA	8,650	8,761	8,745	8,809	8,714	8,700	8,766	8,763
Total	34,343	34,737	34,694	34,741	33,788	31,561	28,725	30,528

Figure 1

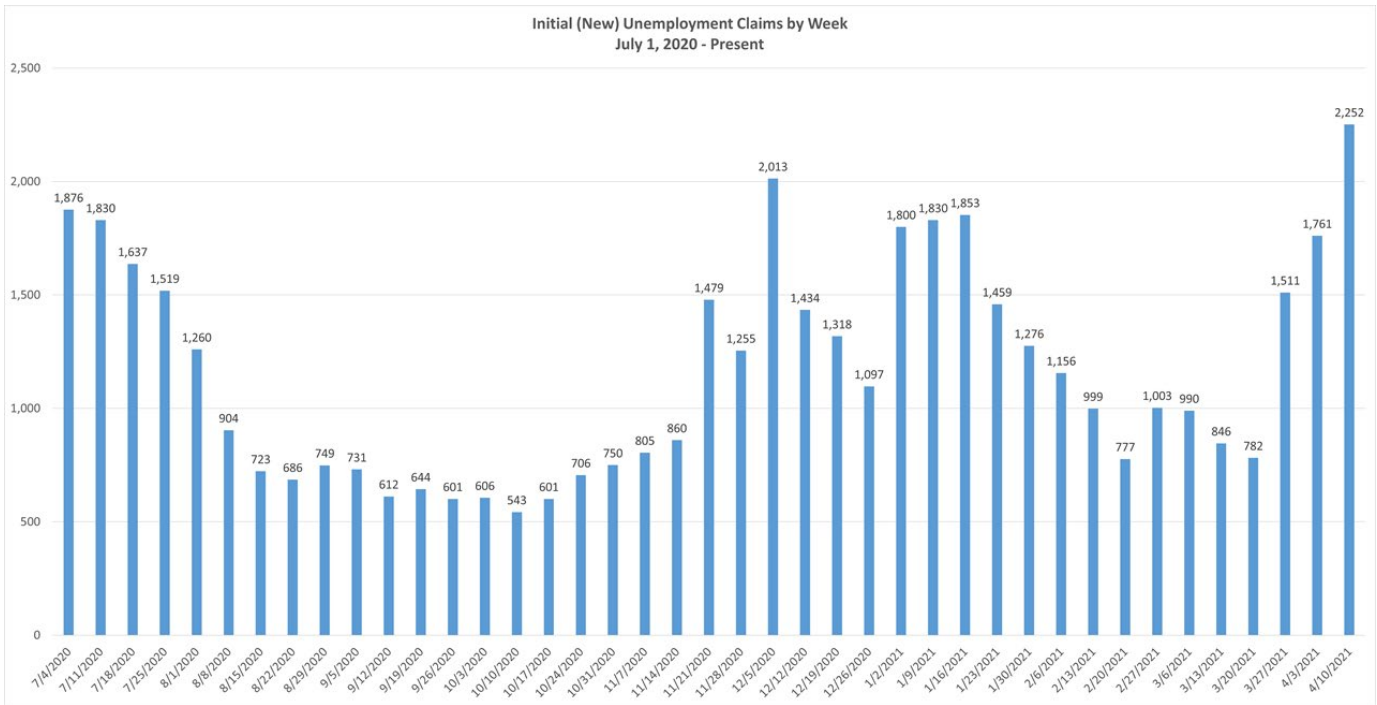


Figure 2

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.

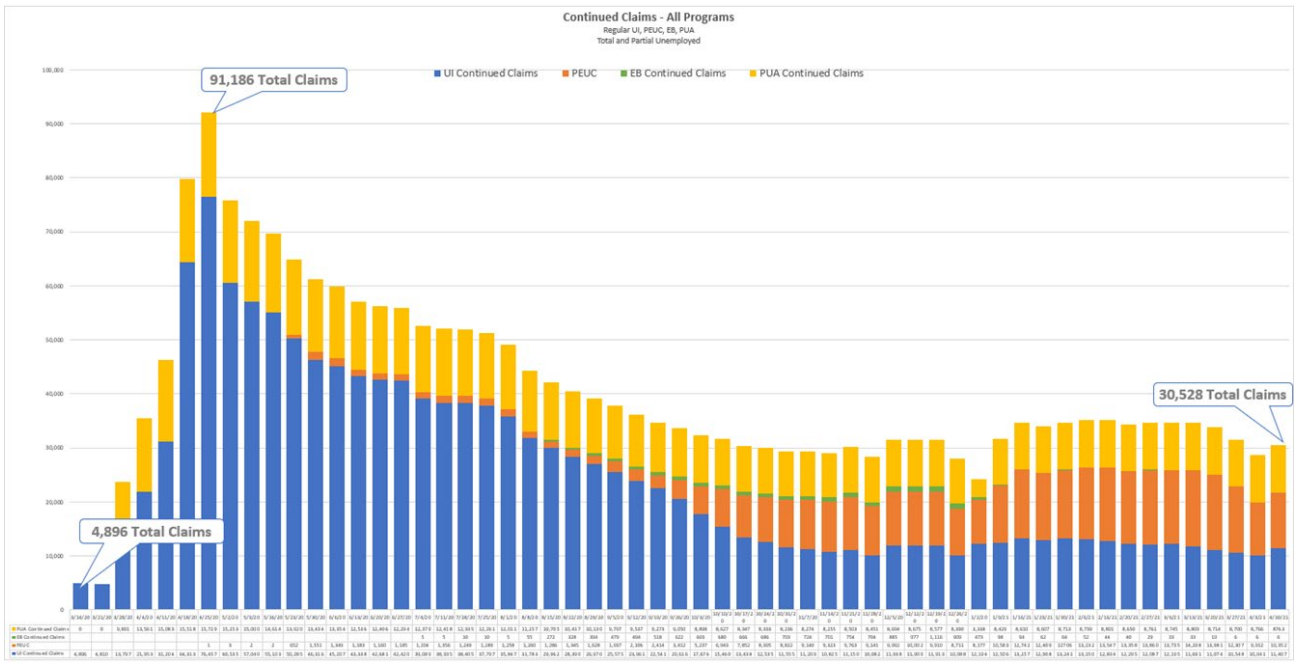


Figure 3

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
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
February 27	24,353	\$8,308,811	8,460	\$5,187,084	\$13,495,895	\$220,634,570
March 6	24,532	\$8,257,067	8,800	\$5,265,854	\$13,522,921	\$216,886,619
March 13	25,932	\$8,125,362	8,809	\$5,039,666	\$13,165,028	\$213,374,056
March 20	24,024	\$7,955,310	8,501	\$5,280,981	\$13,236,291	\$210,031,857
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

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

Figure 4

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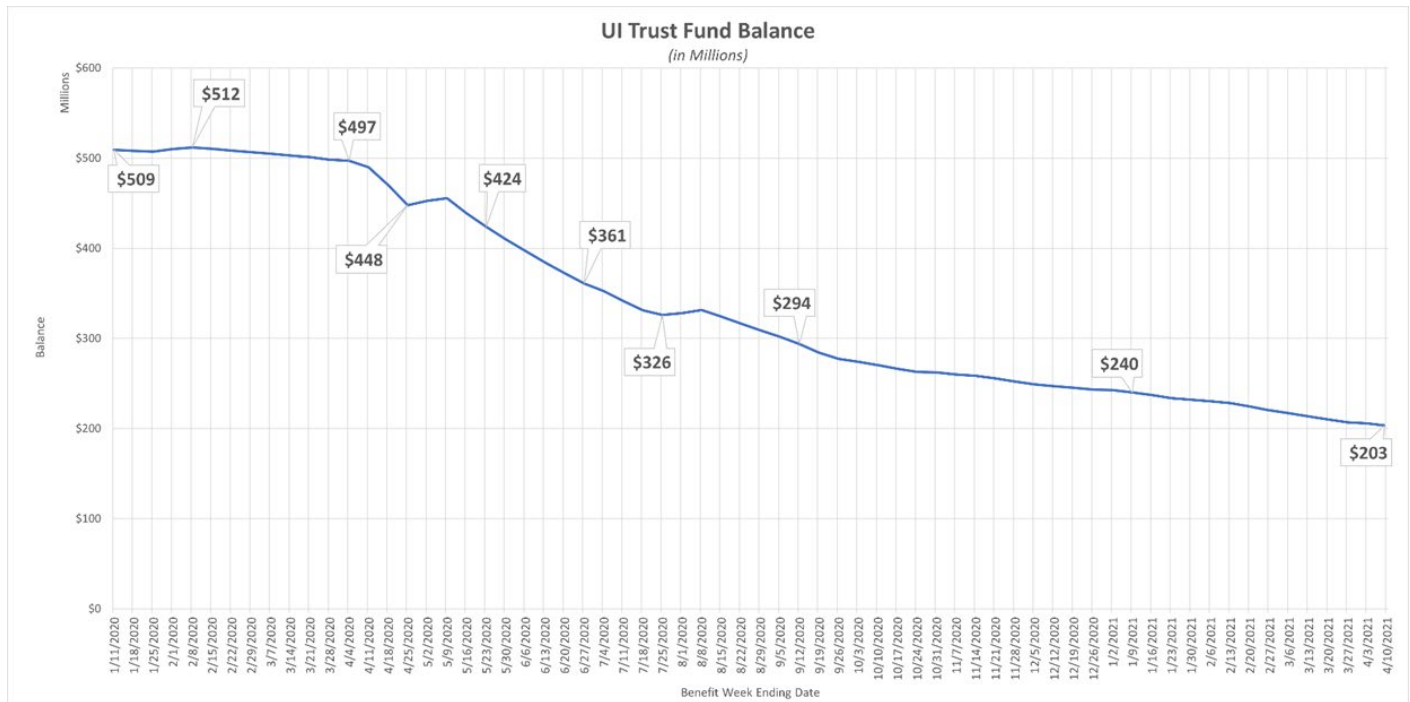


Figure 5

CALL VOLUME

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
109	3,523	11:23	9:01

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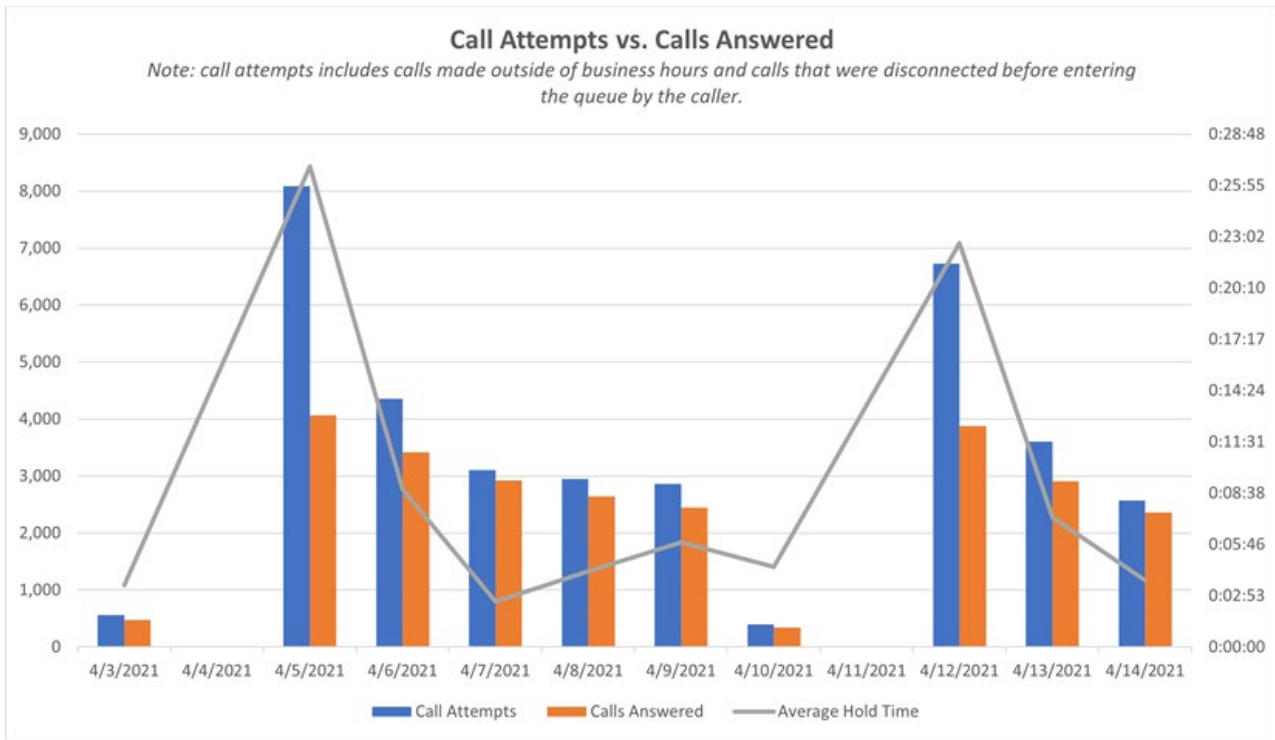


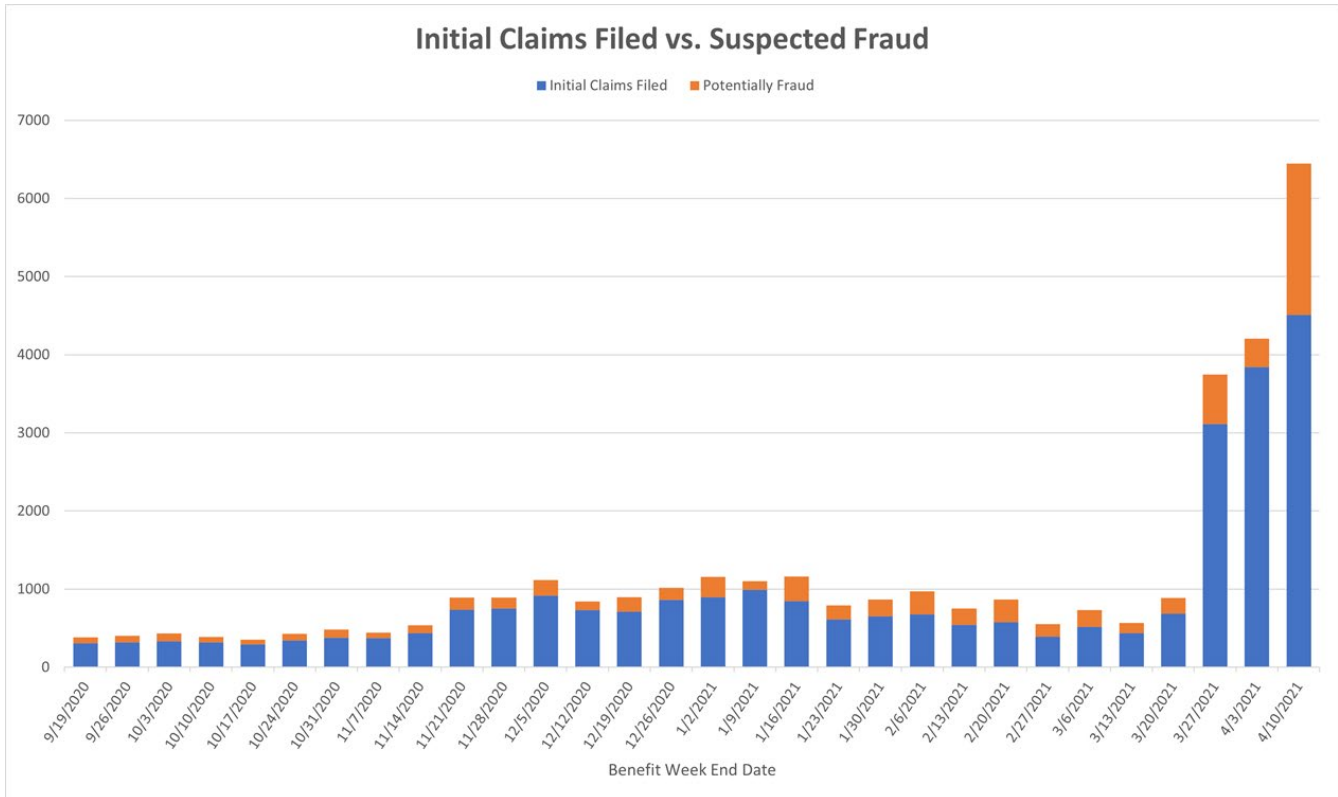
Figure 6



Figure 7

FRAUD DETECTION

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*The high number of initial claims submitted is attributable to claimants who have been filing for the last 12-months and needed to open a new benefit year.

Figure 8

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