

State of Vermont
Department of Labor
Office of the Commissioner

5 Green Mountain Drive
P.O. Box 488
Montpelier, VT 05601
labor.vermont.gov

[telephone] 802-828-4301
[fax] 802-828-4181

To: Vermont General Assembly
From: Commissioner's Office, Department of Labor
Date: May 25, 2021
Subject: Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

During the benefit week ending May 15th there were 28,406 weekly claims filed. This is a decrease of 3,750 continued claims filed over the previous benefit week. During the week ending May 15, \$9,040,843 in benefits were paid out to claimants.

Claimants have started to enter work search information on weekly claims if they do not qualify for an exemption. Earlier last week, an issue prompted some claimants to enter work search information when they should have been exempt (e.g. self-employed, independent contractor, etc.) and others who were not prompted to enter work search information when they should have been.

The issue impacting PUA claimants was resolved Friday. Claimants were notified via email and given extra time to complete their weekly claim for the week. Going forward, PUA claimants who are self-employed will need to check the box certifying they are self-employed each week to be exempt from the work search.

In UI, some claimants are still not being prompted to enter work search information on their weekly claim. When the work search requirement was waived last spring, it also impacted claims on the backend that had a return-to-work date. This is a carryover technical correction that is currently being made in the UI Mainframe and is an example of how manipulation of the antiquated UI technology can have unforeseen impacts in other areas of the UI program.

Claimants who have not been prompted to enter work search information may still file their claim and are required to conduct work search activities. This technical correction being made to the system does not prevent claimants from filing their claim for the week. If claimants are not prompted to enter work search information, they will not be penalized.

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](#)

UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM

Continued Claims Filed								
Week Ending	3/27	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24	5/1	5/8	5/15
Regular UI	10,548	10,041	11,407	11,594	11,522	12,595	12,135	10,177
PEUC	12,307	9,912	10,352	10,699	10,670	10,826	10,558	9,747
EB	6	6	6	5	5	3	5	2
PUA	8,700	8,766	8763	9,412	10,364	10,480	9,458	8,480
Total	31,561	28,725	30,528	31,710	32,561	33,904	32,156	28,406

Figure 1

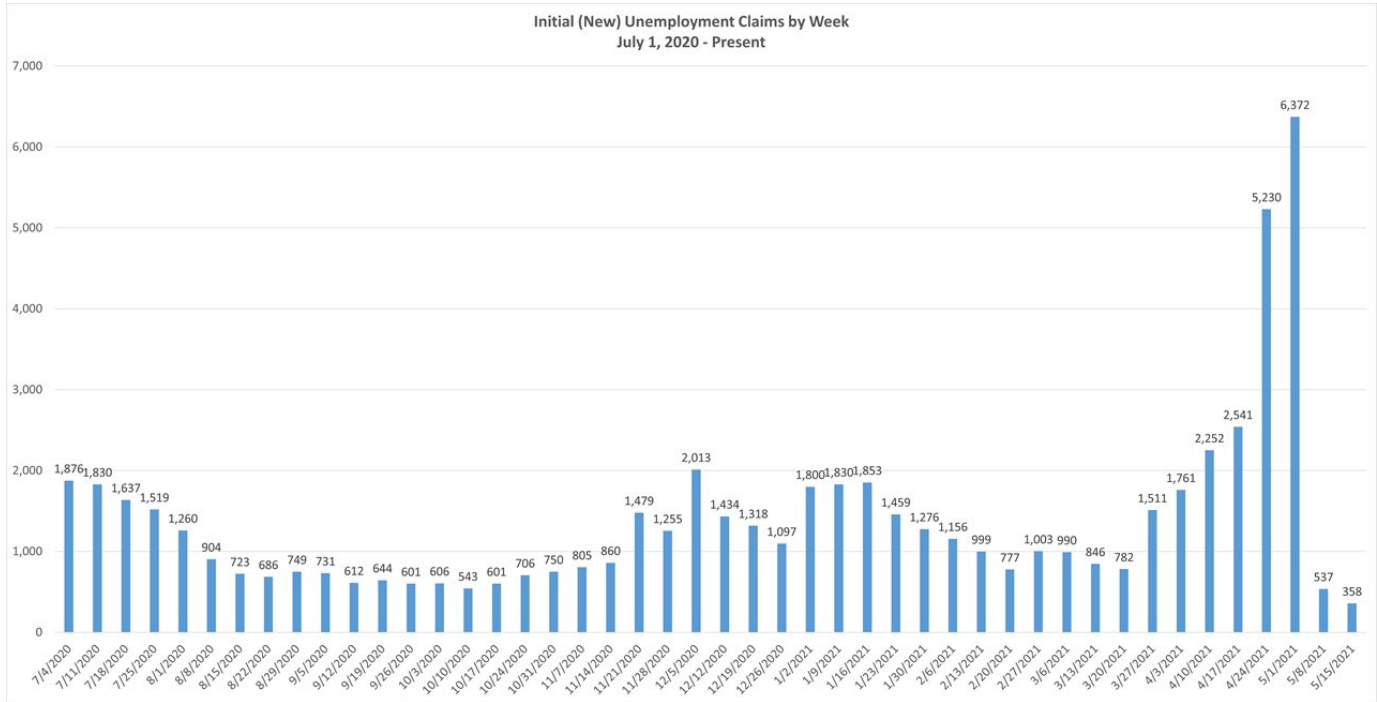


Figure 2

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.

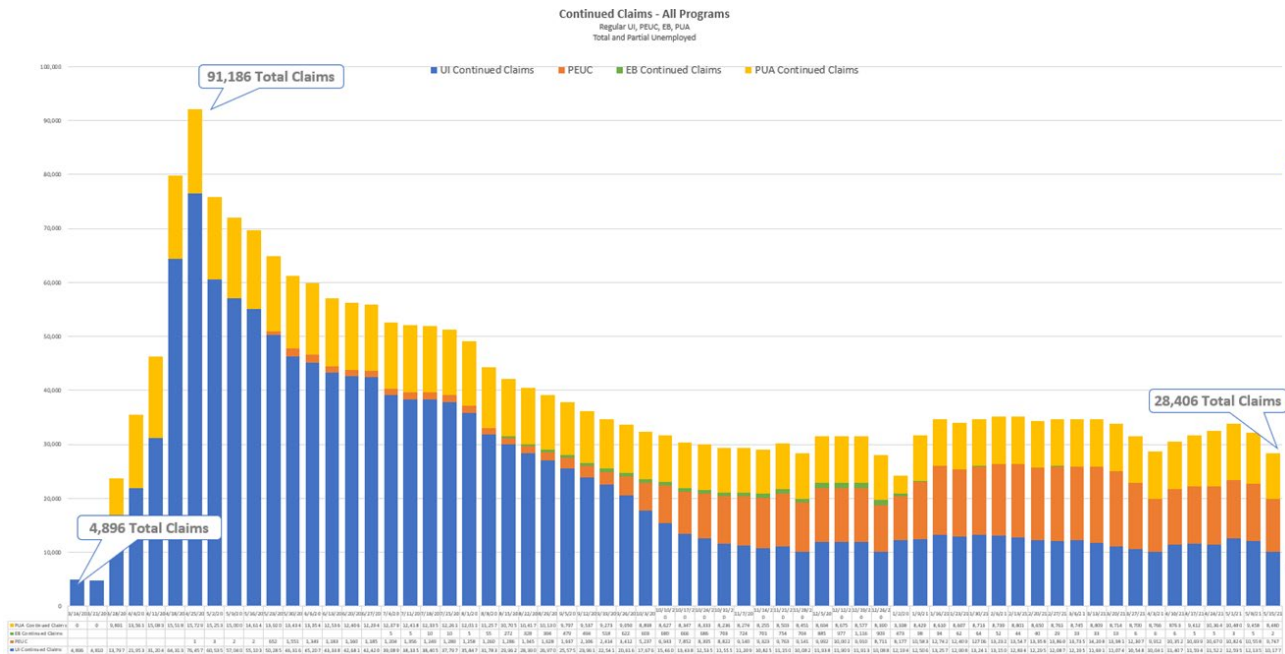


Figure 3

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
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
May 15	17,390	\$5,705,828	5,647	\$3,335,015	\$9,040,843	\$220,883,739

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

Figure 4

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.

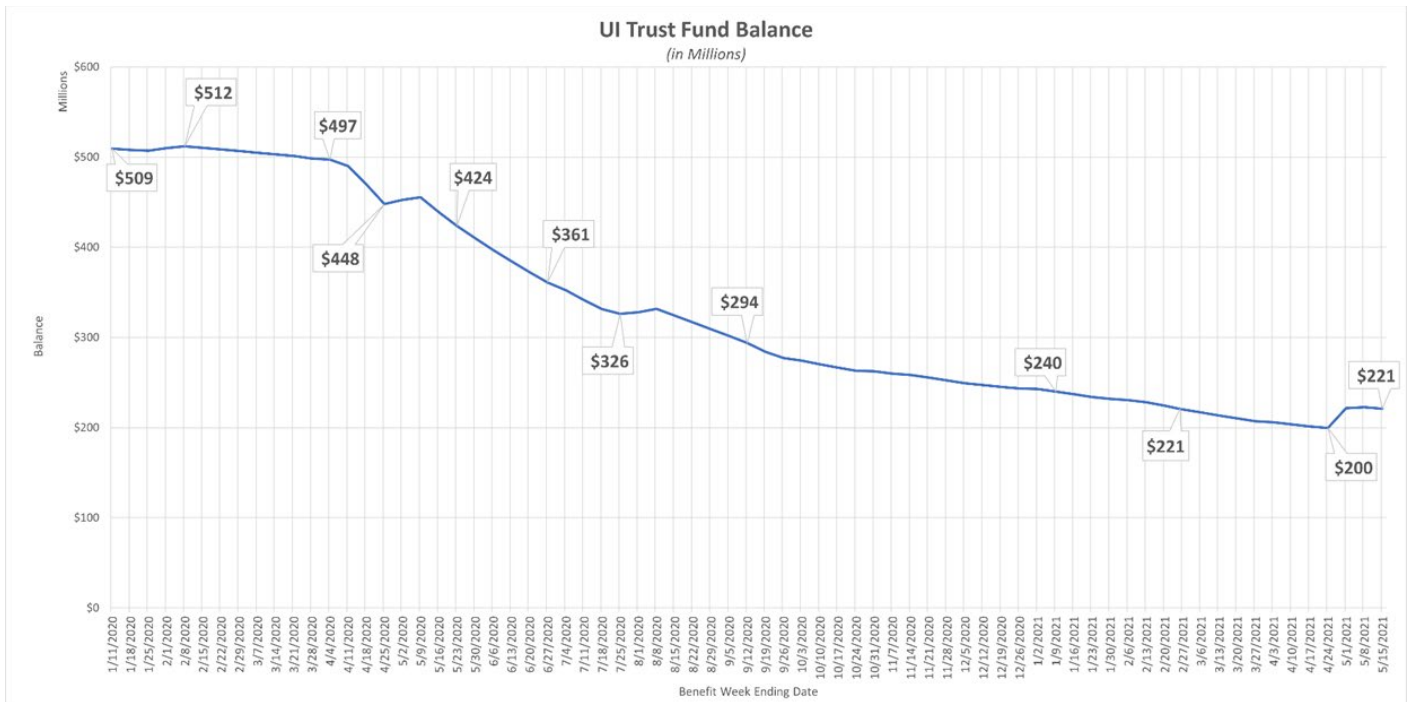


Figure 5

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

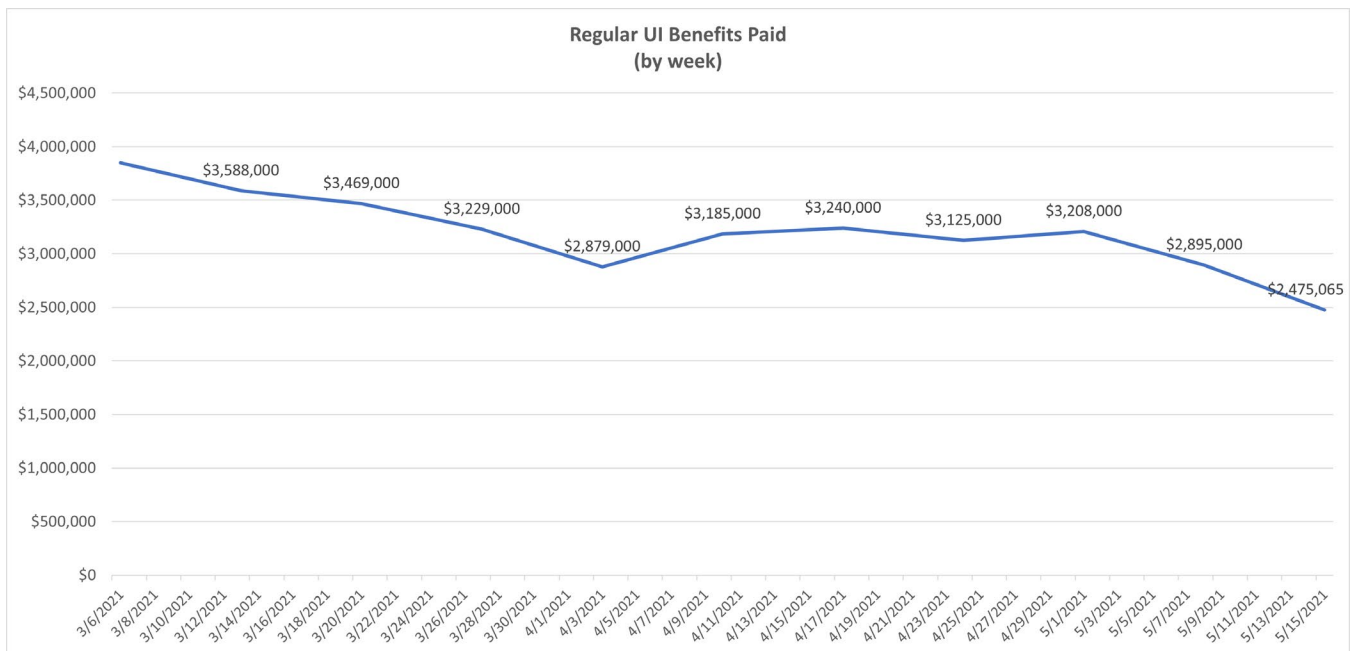


Figure 6

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.

CALL VOLUME

Call Volume Summary			
Average Agents	Average Calls Per Day	Average Length of Call	Average Hold Time
105	4,225	12:00	17:08

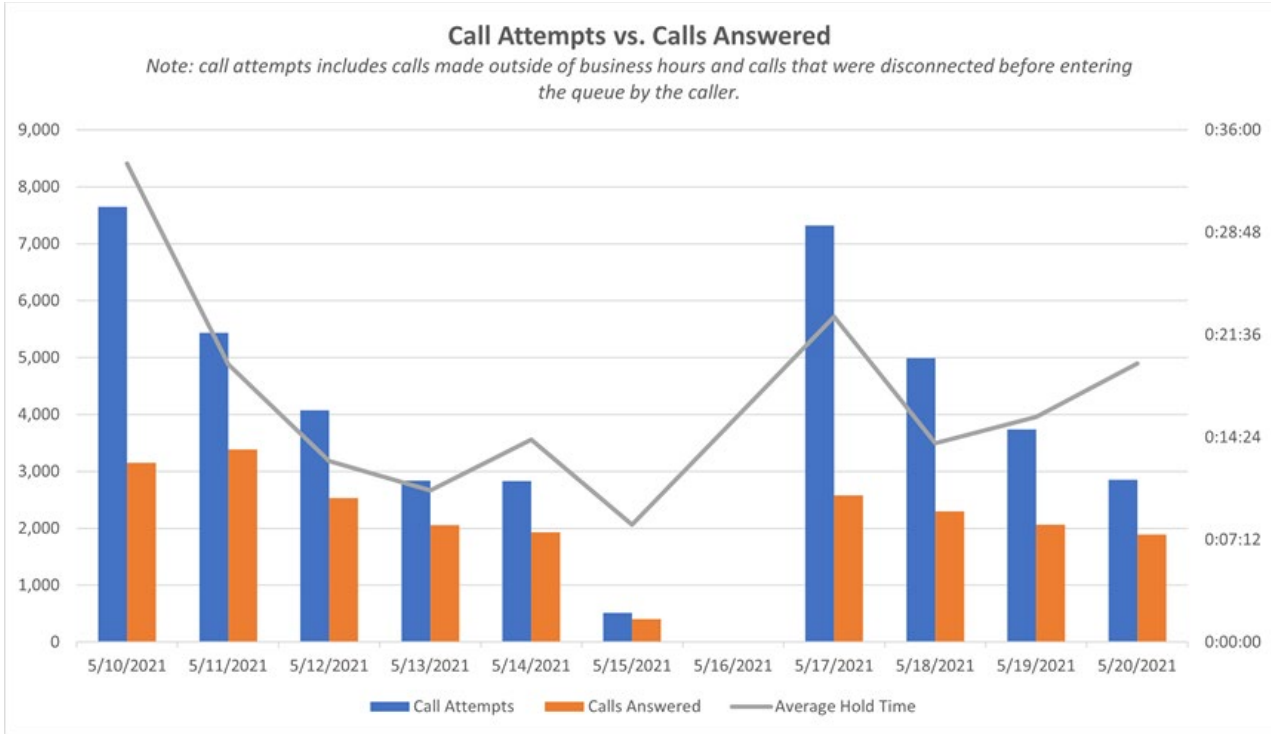


Figure 7



Figure 8

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.

FRAUD DETECTION

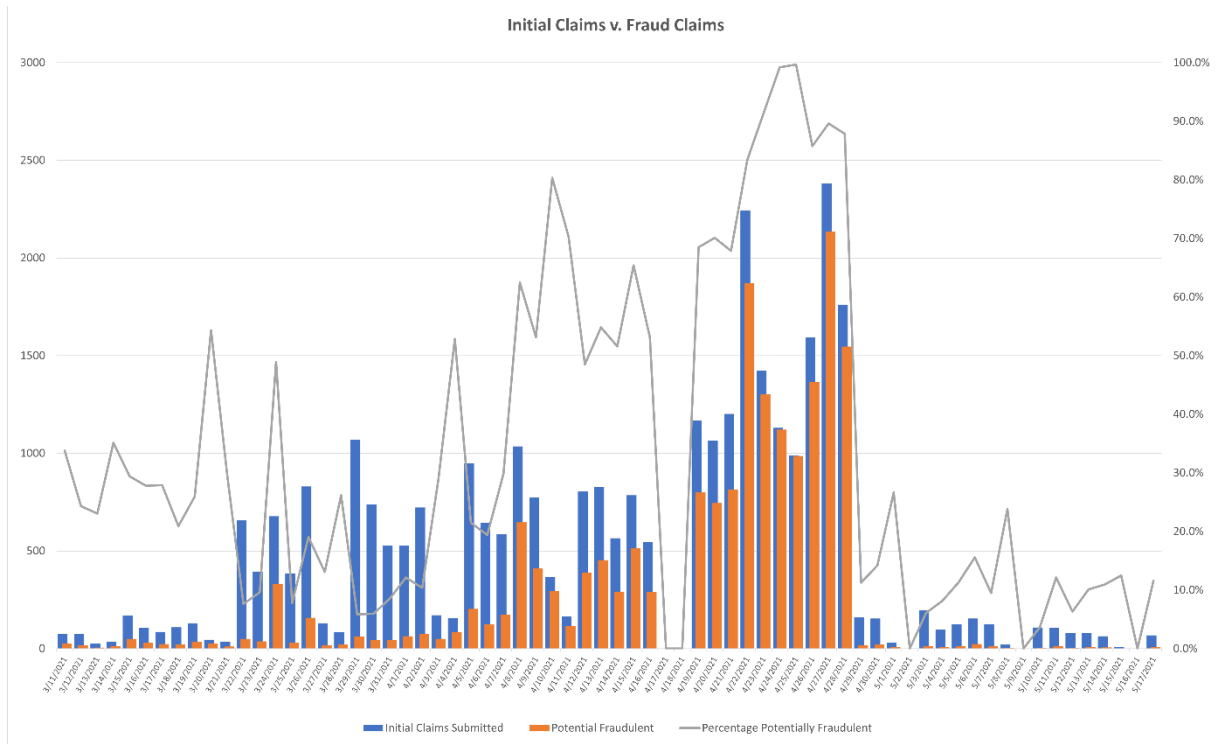


Figure 9

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.