

**To:** Vermont Legislature  
**From:** Michael Harrington, Labor Commissioner  
**Date:** September 1, 2020  
**Subject:** Unemployment Insurance Weekly Update

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

#### **Lost Wage Assistance Program (LWA)**

- The State's application for the LWA was submitted and approved by FEMA and we have begun to implement the additional \$300 benefit. The total grant award as \$35.8 million which will likely pay out benefits to eligible claimants up to three weeks.
- **The LWA program requires claimants to attest that their reason for unemployment is directly related to the pandemic. We have received approval from USDOL to proceed with the language proposed and have begun implementing the attestation page into the Claimant Portal. Claimants will be asked to attest for the weeks ending August 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then going forward for every future week of filing.**

#### **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**

- 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 for expedited resolution. 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**

- **Our team of factfinders has launched successfully. This process will expedite the adjudications process by increasing the number of claims that can be resolved (by adjudicators issuing a determination), thus reducing the number of outstanding claims in adjudications and reducing the average number of days a claim is in adjudications status. Additionally, the Department has hired more staff in both the adjudications and appeals units to accelerate the processing of contested claims.**

#### **Reimbursable Employer Charge Relief**

- On August 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 was able to implement necessary programmatic changes to accommodate the charge relief for reimbursable employers which will result in a 50% reimbursement in the coming days for those employers that paid 100% of their second quarter liabilities.**

*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)**

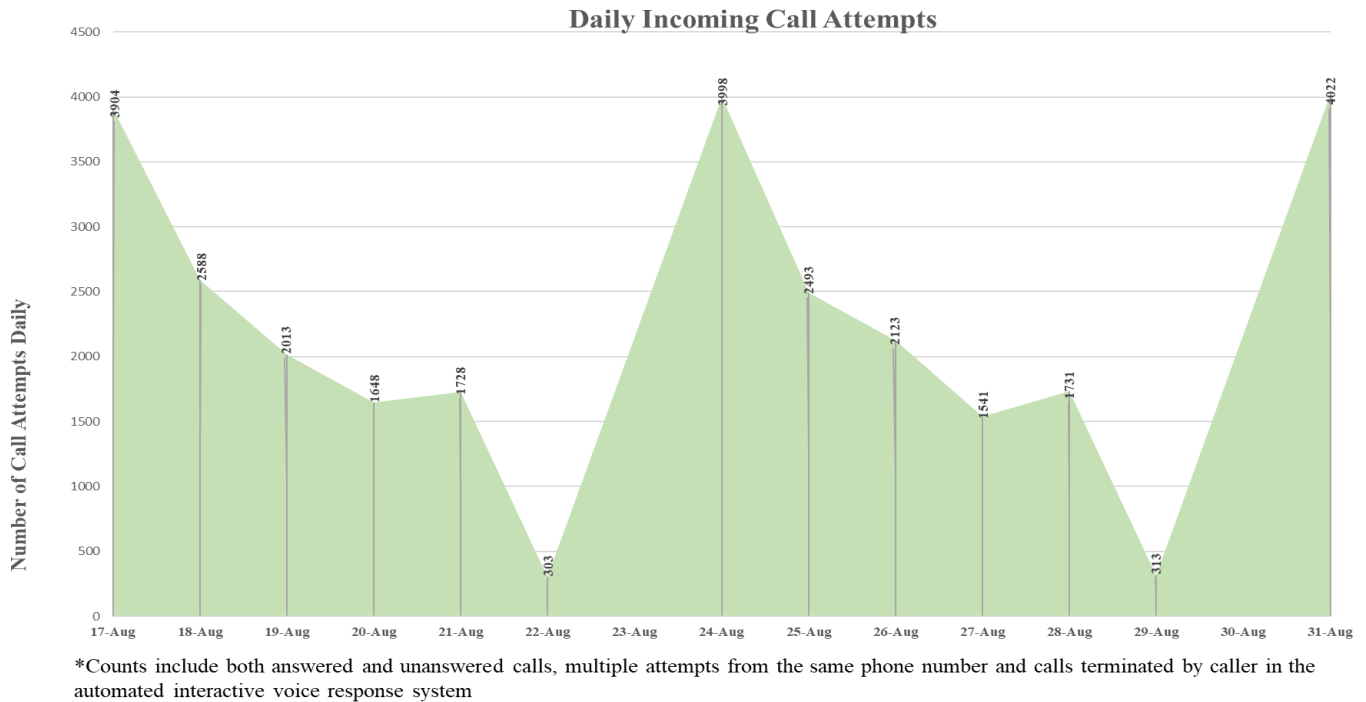
<b>*Numbers as of Tuesday, September 1, 2020</b>		
Total Initial Claimants Filed	<b>119,561</b>	Total Number of Initial Claimants.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI	<b>81,502</b>	Number of claimants eligible for UI.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Paid	<b>74,246</b>	Number of claimants who are receiving, or have received, UI benefits.
Initial Claimants Eligible for UI - Not Paid	<b>7,256</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>\$288,288,209</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)**

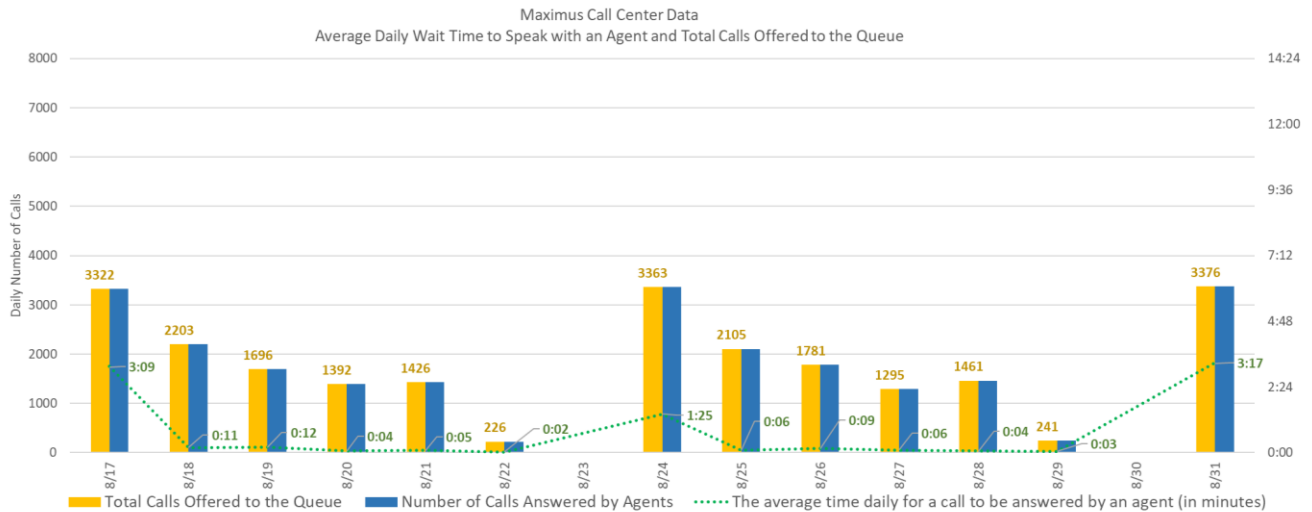
<b>*Numbers as of Tuesday, September 1, 2020</b>		
Claimants Potentially PUA Eligible	<b>31,515</b>	Total number of claimants that could complete the PUA application and are in the system
Claimants in PUA – Filed	<b>23,310</b>	# of claimants who have completed the PUA application
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Eligible	<b>19,727</b>	# of eligible claimants
Claimants in PUA – Filed & Ineligible	<b>3,552</b>	# of ineligible claimants
Claimants Eligible for PUA - Filed and Paid	<b>18,278</b>	# of eligible claimants receiving PUA benefit.
Claimants in PUA -Filed and Not Paid	<b>1,449</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>\$191,094,114</b>	Total amount of PUA benefits paid

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**Figure 1.1**

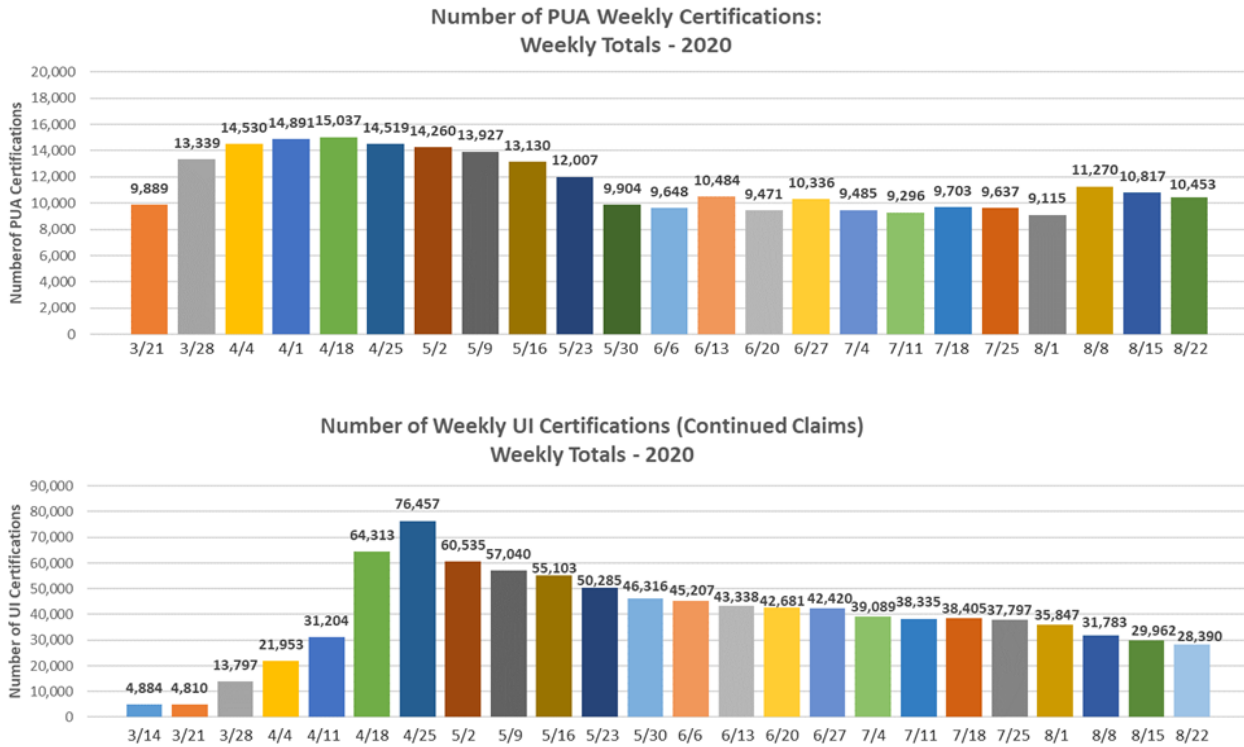


**Figure 1.2**

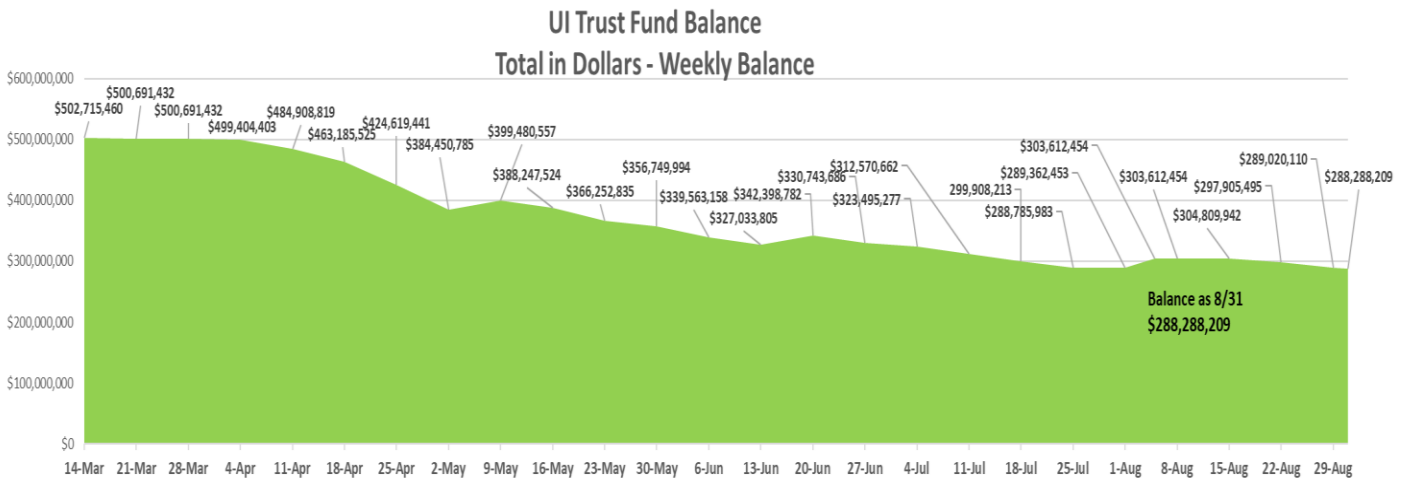


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**Figure 2.1**



**Figure 2.2**



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