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Tony Evers, Governor Caleb Frostman, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, June 29, 2020 CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722 On the Web: dwd.wisconsin.gov/news On Facebook: <u>facebook.com/WIWorkforce</u> On Twitter: @WIWorkforce

DWD RELEASES INFORMATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

MADISON – The Department of Workforce Development (DWD) today released information related to the total number of unemployment calls received, applications filed, claims processed, and monies distributed in Wisconsin as of the week ending June 27, 2020.

The Department announced, based on preliminary numbers, there were 29,727 initial applications filed the week ending June 27. Of those new applications, 4,849 applications are from claimants who have exhausted their UI benefits and applied for PEUC. This is compared to 23,773 the week prior (week ending June 20).

Unemployment Insurance is a joint state-federal program that provides benefits to eligible workers. Each state administers a separate UI program with state-specific laws and rules, but states must also follow the same guidelines established by federal law. Any answer given on a claim raising a question regarding a person's eligibility must be fully investigated before benefits may be paid; this is referred to as the adjudication process.

Adjudication is the investigation and resolution of eligibility issues raised on unemployment insurance claims. Adjudication is a manual process that requires interested parties be provided due notice to respond to the eligibility issue. Eligibility issues arise from several places including the initial claim, weekly claim, employer contact, claimant contact, and tips from the public. Under normal conditions, adjudication typically takes 21 days to process.

Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits: If you're out of work through no fault of your own, and you've worked for a covered employer (an employer who pays UI tax) in the last 18 months, you may be eligible for and should apply for regular UI benefits. Regular UI is available for up to 26 weeks (dependent upon an individual's specific situation).

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC): A temporary program that provides up to 13 additional weeks of payments to individuals who have exhausted their regular UI benefits.

Extended Benefits (EB): A temporary program that provides up to 13 additional weeks of payments to individuals who have exhausted regular UI and PEUC.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA): If you are not eligible for regular UI, you may be eligible for PUA. This is a temporary federal program that provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to individuals who are not eligible for regular UI such as:

- Individuals who are self-employed;
- Certain independent contractors;
- Individuals with limited recent work history; and
- Other workers not covered by regular UI.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC): A temporary emergency increase of \$600 per week in unemployment benefits. FPUC provides an additional payment to individuals who are collecting regular UI, PEUC, EB, or PUA. It is automatically added to the weekly benefit rate. **NOTE: the last payable week for FPUC is the week ending** <u>July 25, 2020</u>.

"Almost 90% of claims filed between March 15 and May 2 have resolved, meaning that they have either been paid or denied," DWD Secretary Caleb Frostman said. "There is still a lot of work to do, but with the additional resources the Department has put into place, we are making great strides in clearing claims and delivering better customer service for Wisconsinites."

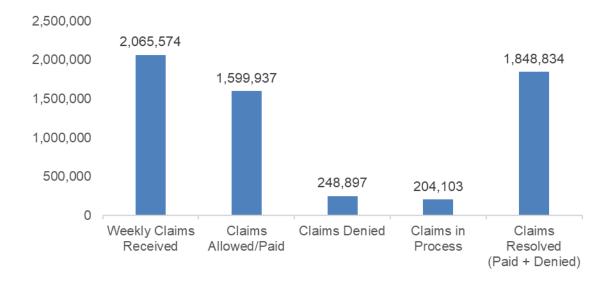
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS CLAIMS STATUS

	Weekly Claims Received**	Claims Allowed/ Paid	Claims Denied*	Claims in Process (Includes claims awaiting wage verification, adjudication, etc.)	Claims Resolved (Paid + Denied)
<i>Snapshot:</i> March 15 - May 2, 2020	2,065,574	1,599,937 = 77.46%	248,897 = 12.05%	216,740 = 10.49%	1,848,834 = 89.51%
<i>Total:</i> March 15 - June 27, 2020	3,709,342	2,763,979 = 74.51%	433,824 = 11.70%	511,539 = 13.79%***	3,197,803 = 86.21%

*Includes weeks with BAR or serving waiting week if benefit year started pre-Act 185 implementation.

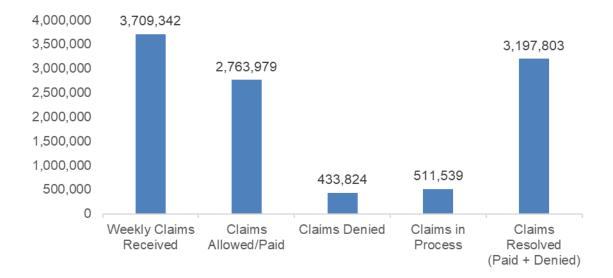
**Neither applications nor claims received equate to a specific number of individuals. Preliminary counts updated daily at <u>https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/covid19/public/ui-stats.htm</u>.

***The approximately 511,500 weeks that are currently held for adjudication (13.79% of all weeks claimed) **represent approximately 141,110 unique claimants** with around 232,576 issues requiring adjudication. A claimant could have one issue or many holding up a week or many weeks. DWD is prioritizing all adjudication work by earliest date to pay the claimants who have been waiting the longest first. Approximately 405,643 claimants have been paid since March 15.



SNAPSHOT: March 15, 2020 - May 2, 2020





TOTAL NUMBER	MARCH 15, 2020 - JUNE 27, 2020	FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH PROGRAM, VISIT:	
Average Number of Days from Application to Payment for Regular UI	20		
Unemployment Applications Received**	701,454	https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/apply/	
Total Benefits Paid (including FPUC and PUA)	\$2,223,537,779		
FPUC Benefits Paid	\$1,479,940,875	https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/fpuc/	
PUA Applications Submitted****	78,914	https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/pua/	
PUA Benefits Paid	\$11,324,476		
PEUC Applications Submitted	4,849	https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/uiben/peuc/	
PEUC Benefits Paid	\$5,909,941		
UI Calls Received - Week ending June 27, 2020	342,834		

****Past press releases reported both applications started but never completed and applications completed and submitted. We are now reporting only those applications completed and submitted.

UNEMPLOYMENT STAFFING STATUS

DATE	UI RESOURCE ADJUDICATION STAFF	UI CALL CENTER STAFF	ALL OTHER UI RESOURCE STAFF	TOTAL UI RESOURCE STAFF
March 14, 2020	174	62	268	504
June 29, 2020	523	538	589	1,650
DWD Permanent, LTE, and Project Staff	273	149	383	805
Temporarily Reassigned Staff	81	82	25	188
Vendor Staff	169	307	181	657

UI STAFFING COMPARISON: March 14, 2020 to June 29, 2020

