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# Weekly Unemployment Claims Jump 25% as Pandemic Pushes Benefits Applications Past 1.6M

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2020

**TRENTON** – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL) received 24,663\* initial unemployment claims last week, a 25 percent increase over the previous week, as the number of workers seeking jobless benefits now tops 1.6 million since COVID-19 forced many businesses to close six months ago.

NJDOL has distributed \$15.6 billion in federal and state unemployment benefits to workers who lost their jobs, were furloughed, or had their hours reduced in the pandemic, including \$286 million for the week ending Sept. 19.

“New Jersey workers continue to struggle with the weight of unemployment and underemployment, and the accompanying financial worries of not having a job,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “The Labor Department staff knows the difficulties our customers are facing, so they work hard every day to resolve as many cases and answer as many questions as possible.”

Of those who have sought unemployment, 1.4 million have met the monetary requirements for benefits. Of those, 96 percent have received payment, with an average benefit of \$11,690 per claimant.

Additionally, the Department has been approved for six weeks of funding through FEMA’s Lost Wages Supplemental Assistance (LWA) program. The funding gives eligible claimants \$300/week in addition to their other unemployment benefits for a limited time. Programming will be in place next month to distribute lump sum payments.

Here is a look at the number of new unemployment claims received by the department each week:

**Click the images below to view them full-size.**



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NJ adds jobs in July; 7th consecutive months of gains. [nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/...](https://nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/)

Aug 19, 2021



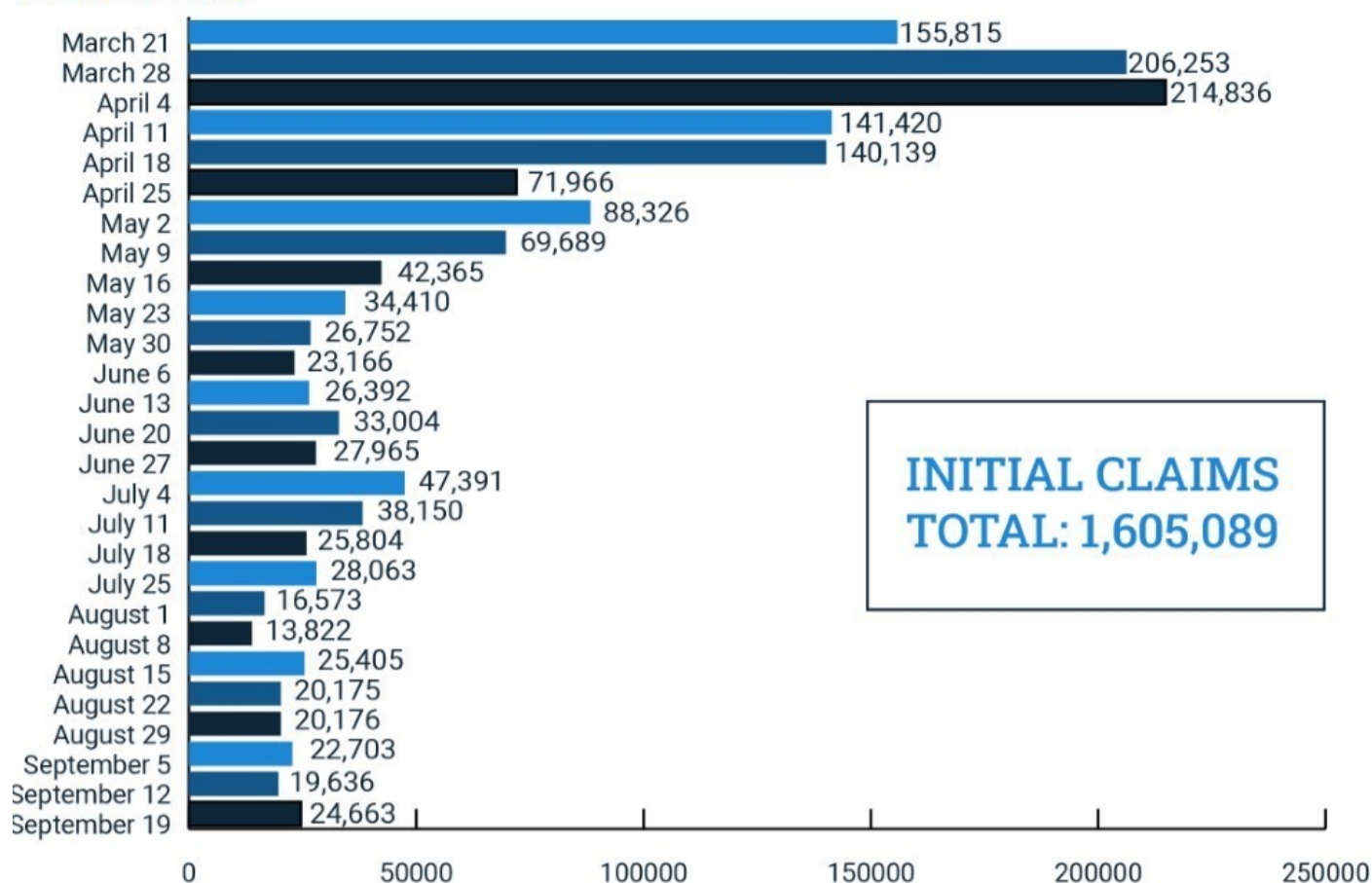
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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) for updates and available resources.



# Weekly totals of new unemployment claims

## WEEK ENDING:



# Weekly breakdown of payments (in millions)

Week Ending	New Jersey Unemployment Insurance (UI)	Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)	Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)	Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Extended Unemployment Benefits (EB)
March 21	\$47.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
March 28	\$57.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 4	\$89.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 11	\$140.7	\$154.8	NA	NA	NA
April 18	\$179.7	\$238.8	NA	NA	NA
April 25	\$211.1	\$296.3	NA	NA	NA
May 2	\$171.7	\$291.1	\$27.1	NA	NA
May 9	\$244.7	\$502.4	\$51.6	NA	NA
May 16	\$239.7	\$414	\$55.6	NA	NA
May 23	\$236.2	\$596.9	\$112.3	NA	NA
May 30	\$242.7	\$553.5	\$87.7	NA	NA
June 6	\$255.5	\$635.2	\$56.6	\$56.6	NA
June 13	\$244.5	\$573.8	\$60.7	\$46.5	NA
June 20	\$248.9	\$626.1	\$86.6	\$37.4	NA
June 27	\$240.4	\$559.7	\$73.5	\$31.7	NA
July 4	\$202.9	\$536.1	\$71.7	\$31.8	NA
July 11	\$208.5	\$521.3	\$69.1	\$24.4	\$2.2
July 18	\$209.3	\$524.5	\$65.2	\$22.7	\$3.9
July 25	\$197.7	\$526.2	\$77	\$25.7	\$4.8
August 1	\$192.1	\$513.5	\$74.7	\$33.7	\$6.5
August 8	\$202.6	\$200.8	\$86.1	\$20	\$6.2
August 15	\$175	\$95.3	\$77.8	\$23.7	\$7.1
August 22	\$167.3	\$70.3	\$52.1	\$20.4	\$6.7
August 29	\$171.1	\$64.4	\$79.7	\$20.9	\$7.2
September 5	\$129.3	\$56.4	\$84.4	\$20.7	\$8
September 12	\$152.9	\$39.7	\$87.6	\$21.2	\$8.7
September 19	\$137	\$31.4	\$85.3	\$22.6	\$9.6
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS PAID</b>	<b>\$4,976.6</b>	<b>\$8,622.5</b>	<b>\$1,522.4</b>	<b>\$460</b>	<b>\$70.9</b>

NA: Benefit not applicable during the indicated weeks.

PUA, PEUC and FPUC are federal programs authorized by Congress under the CARES Act. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides benefits through the end of the year; maximum eligibility is 46 weeks, including extended benefits. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) provides 13 weeks of federal benefits for those who exhaust 26 weeks of state unemployment. State extended benefits (EB) automatically offers an additional 20 weeks of assistance once PEUC ends. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) provided \$600/week to everyone eligible for unemployment for the weeks of April 4 through July 25. Congress has thus far failed to extend the program.

For more information on state or federal unemployment programs, visit [myunemployment.nj.gov](http://myunemployment.nj.gov).

Anyone looking for work is encouraged to visit New Jersey's jobs portal – [jobs.covid19.nj.gov](https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov) - which matches jobseekers with immediate openings in industries such as food distribution, warehousing and health care.

For national unemployment data, visit <https://www.dol.gov/ui/data.pdf>. For archived NJ claims data, visit <https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/DataDashboard.asp>.

*\*This represents the final number for the week ending Sept. 19. The number listed for New Jersey by the US Department of Labor – 23,661 – is based on advanced reporting*

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