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# New Unemployment Claims Continue to Decline

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2021

**TRENTON** – The number of new unemployment claims fell for the second straight week last week – to 10,534\* – which is about 130,000 fewer weekly claims than the Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported for the same week a year ago, at the height of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also last week, New Jersey triggered off of federal High Extended Benefits, which afforded an additional seven weeks of extended benefits to eligible claimants. High Extended Benefits – which increases the duration of extended benefits from 13 to 20 weeks – is triggered when the state’s three-month average unemployment rate is 8 percent or higher. The average for the past three months in New Jersey is 7.7 percent.

Claims impacted by this status change will be automatically and seamlessly moved on to Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) to continue receiving their remaining benefits. No action by claimants is needed. In essence, there will be no affect on claimants through Sept. 4, when PEUC and other pandemic rescue programs expire.

For the week ending April 17, new unemployment claims declined by 7 percent from the prior week, when a 43 percent drop was reported. The Department has received 2,125,289\*\* initial unemployment claims since the pandemic struck the state’s workforce last year, including 140,139 new claims for the week ending April 18, 2020.

The Department distributed \$416 million in benefits last week, for a cumulative total of \$26.9 billion dispensed to jobless New Jersey workers. The average claimant in New Jersey has received \$17,827 in benefits.

“New Jersey is leading the way on many fronts in getting benefits to workers, but we know this is no solace to those waiting for a determination or a better understanding of the status of their claim,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “This continues to motivate our teams to try so hard to determine that workers *are* eligible, and to deliver benefits as quickly as possible them.”

NJDOL has also begun verifying the wages of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) recipients, as per federal law. The Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020 requires independent contractors, self-employed individuals and others receiving PUA to submit proof of income to continue to receiving benefits. These claimants are being notified via email with detailed instructions and deadlines.

Here are the week-by-week totals of new unemployment claims:



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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



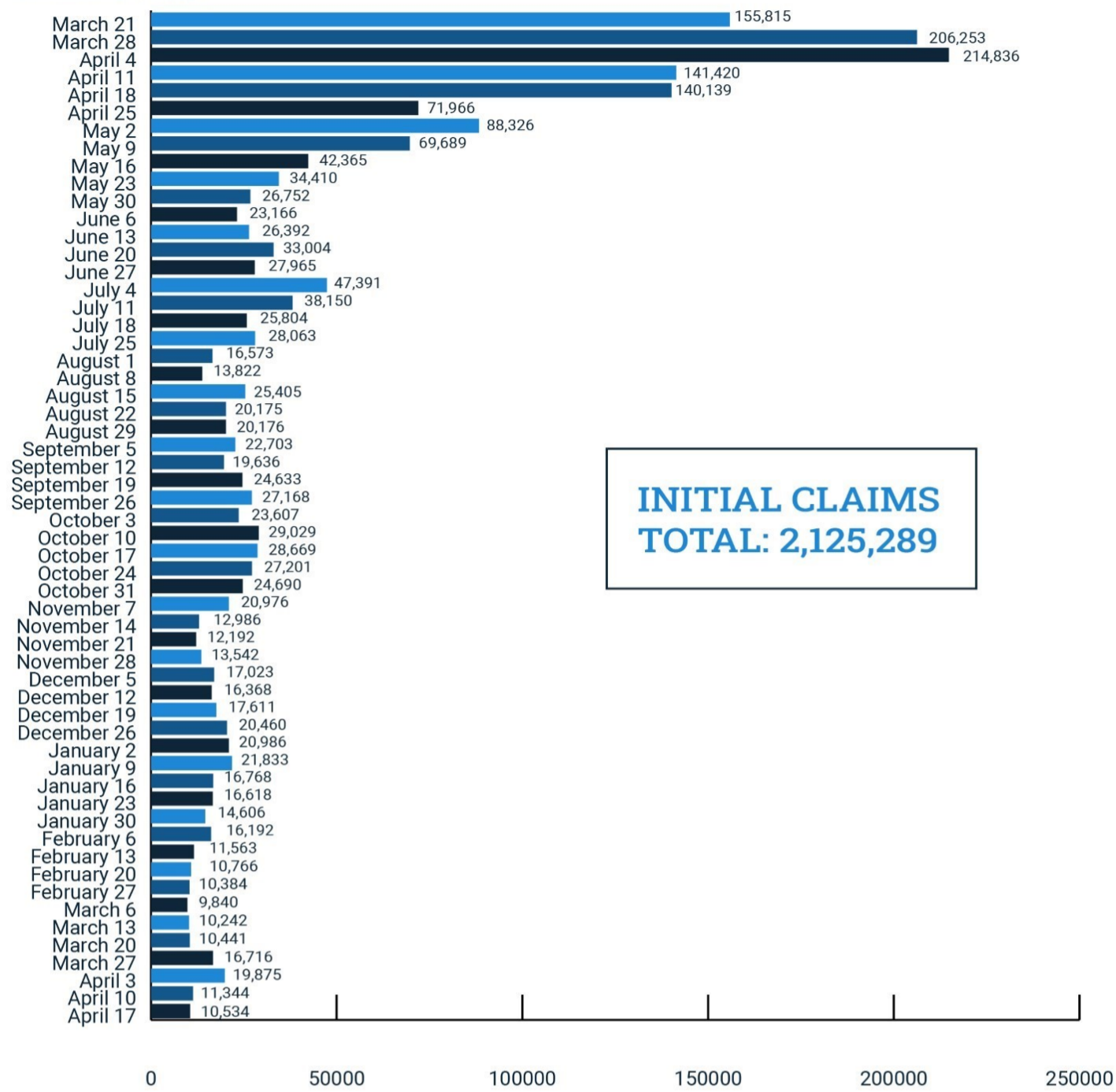
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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://MyUnemployment.nj.gov)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



# Weekly totals of new unemployment claims

WEEK ENDING:



Here is the breakdown of weekly benefits payments to eligible New Jersey workers:

# Weekly breakdown of payments (in millions)

Week Ending	New Jersey Unemployment Insurance (UI)	Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)/CARES Act	Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)/ Continued Assistance Act	Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)	Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Extended Unemployment Benefits (EB)	Lost Wages Assistance (LWA)
March 21	\$47.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
March 28	\$57.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 4	\$89.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 11	\$140.7	\$154.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 18	\$179.7	\$238.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 25	\$211.1	\$296.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
May 2	\$171.7	\$291.1	NA	\$27.1	NA	NA	NA
May 9	\$244.7	\$502.4	NA	\$51.6	NA	NA	NA
May 16	\$239.7	\$414	NA	\$55.6	NA	NA	NA
May 23	\$236.2	\$596.9	NA	\$112.3	NA	NA	NA
May 30	\$242.7	\$553.5	NA	\$87.7	NA	NA	NA
June 6	\$255.5	\$635.2	NA	\$56.6	\$56.6	NA	NA
June 13	\$244.5	\$573.8	NA	\$60.7	\$46.5	NA	NA
June 20	\$248.9	\$626.1	NA	\$86.6	\$37.4	NA	NA
June 27	\$240.4	\$559.7	NA	\$73.5	\$31.7	NA	NA
July 4	\$202.9	\$536.1	NA	\$71.7	\$31.8	NA	NA
July 11	\$208.5	\$521.3	NA	\$69.1	\$24.4	\$2.2	NA
July 18	\$209.3	\$524.5	NA	\$65.2	\$22.7	\$3.9	NA
July 25	\$197.7	\$526.2	NA	\$77	\$25.7	\$4.8	NA
August 1	\$192.1	\$513.5	NA	\$74.7	\$33.7	\$6.5	NA
August 8	\$202.6	\$200.8	NA	\$86.1	\$20	\$6.2	NA
August 15	\$175	\$95.3	NA	\$77.8	\$23.7	\$7.1	NA
August 22	\$167.3	\$70.3	NA	\$52.1	\$20.4	\$6.7	NA
August 29	\$171.1	\$64.4	NA	\$79.7	\$20.9	\$7.2	NA
September 5	\$129.3	\$56.4	NA	\$84.4	\$20.7	\$8	NA
September 12	\$152.9	\$39.7	NA	\$87.6	\$21.2	\$8.7	NA
September 19	\$137	\$31.4	NA	\$85.3	\$22.6	\$9.6	NA
September 26	\$127.2	\$35.5	NA	\$89.5	\$25.5	\$10.1	NA
October 3	\$111.9	\$23.2	NA	\$82.7	\$33.8	\$10.4	NA
October 10	\$102.8	\$29	NA	\$89	\$45.4	\$11.3	NA
October 17	\$88.5	\$20.5	NA	\$84.5	\$50.8	\$11.8	NA
October 24	\$81.7	\$18.2	NA	\$85.3	\$56.2	\$12.5	\$1,146.5
October 31	\$76.3	\$16.8	NA	\$85.3	\$58.3	\$12.8	\$88.9
November 7	\$72.5	\$13.2	NA	\$83.2	\$59.7	\$12.8	NA
November 14	\$68.2	\$12.9	NA	\$85.1	\$61.9	\$13.6	\$56.2
November 21	\$65.6	\$12.4	NA	\$85.6	\$62.4	\$14.7	\$33.3
November 28	\$63.1	\$9	NA	\$83.9	\$62.1	\$13.5	\$1.3
December 5	\$61.1	\$16.2	NA	\$80.5	\$59.1	\$12.8	NA
December 12	\$66.1	\$12.2	NA	\$91.6	\$66.9	\$16.7	NA
December 19	\$61.3	\$11.3	NA	\$86.3	\$62.3	\$16	\$19.4
December 26	\$52.4	\$8.2	NA	\$78.5	\$50.3	\$15.7	NA
January 2	\$52.9	\$5.8	NA	\$85.9	\$47.4	\$21	NA
January 9	\$80	\$7.8	NA	\$95.6	\$57.1	\$35.3	NA
January 16	\$61.9	\$6.8	NA	\$87.9	\$40	\$28.5	NA
January 23	\$54.4	\$5.5	\$288.3	\$86.7	\$34	\$27.2	NA
January 30	\$58.1	\$6.6	\$162	\$86.5	\$31.5	\$27.2	NA
February 6	\$55.2	\$7.2	\$159.5	\$83.3	\$27.7	\$25.2	NA
February 13	\$66.3	\$7.3	\$157	\$90.5	\$108	\$26.1	NA
February 20	\$62.3	\$5.6	\$239.8	\$83.9	\$98.7	\$24.1	NA
February 27	\$63.6	\$10.5	\$211.4	\$83.7	\$78.2	\$25.5	NA
March 6	\$62.2	\$4.4	\$197.5	\$79.7	\$72	\$28.1	NA
March 13	\$59.8	\$3.7	\$194.1	\$85.2	\$74.3	\$27.6	\$23.6
March 20	\$56.7	\$5.4	\$199.7	\$83.7	\$71.9	\$24.9	\$0.9
March 27	\$56.5	\$3.6	\$197.4	\$82.6	\$68.2	\$22.3	NA
April 3	\$51.4	\$2.8	\$191	\$76.8	\$64	\$19.5	NA
April 10	\$55.5	\$2.7	\$185.7	\$84.6	\$67.6	\$19.8	NA
April 17	\$59.1	\$3.2	\$187.6	\$83.1	\$65.3	\$17.9	NA
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS PAID</b>	<b>\$7,031.4</b>	<b>\$8,949.8</b>	<b>\$2,571</b>	<b>\$4,073.1</b>	<b>\$2,220.6</b>	<b>\$655.8</b>	<b>\$1,370.1</b>

NA: Benefit not applicable during the indicated weeks.

The American Rescue Plan signed March 11 extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), PEUC and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) – the \$300 supplement – to eligible claimants for 25 weeks, through Sept. 4.

The maximum eligibility for PUA is now 75 weeks. PEUC now provides up to 49 weeks of additional benefits to those who exhaust 26 weeks of state unemployment. Extended benefits (EB) adds 13 weeks. The \$300 FPUC supplement is for anyone collecting unemployment in any amount during eligible weeks. There is also a provision in the new rescue law that excludes the first \$10,200 of unemployment benefits from having to be reported as income on federal taxes for households earning less than \$150,000/year.

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

Information on virtual Career Services can be found here: [nj.gov/labor/career-services](https://nj.gov/labor/career-services).

Visit New Jersey's jobs portal here: [jobs.covid19.nj.gov](https://jobs.covid19.nj.gov).

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 April 17. The number listed for New Jersey by the US Department of Labor –9,527 – is based on advanced reporting.*

*\*\*The number of new initial claims includes 258,629 claims that have been reopened by residents who returned to unemployment after a period of employment within a calendar year, as well as claims that turned out to be fraudulent.*

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Department of Labor  
1 John Fitch Plz,  
Trenton, NJ 08611