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\$11.6B in Unemployment Benefits Distributed Since COVID-19 Shuttered NJ Businesses

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2020

TRENTON – The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has distributed \$11.6 billion in unemployment benefits to New Jersey workers in the past 18 weeks, including \$825 million last week alone, as the number of initial unemployment applications declined for the second straight week.

For the week ending July 18, the Labor Department received 25,804 new applications for benefits from unemployed or furloughed workers, a 33 percent decline from the prior week. Over the past four weeks, the Department has received an average of just under 35,000 initial unemployment claims per week.

“While we’re pleased to see a gradual slowing of the rate of new unemployment claims, we are painfully aware of the unprecedented number of our fellow New Jerseyans who are struggling financially as a direct result of COVID-19,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “I couldn’t be more proud of our staff who have been working non-stop to provide an average of almost \$10,000 in vital economic support to 1.2 million New Jerseyans during this difficult time. Nonetheless, we are mindful that some workers continue to wait for resolution of their cases, and we are making every effort to get them a determination quickly.”

The Department has issued more than \$7 billion in federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) payments to 1.1 million claimants since the program began the week of April 4. While the week ending July 25 will be the last to include the \$600 weekly supplement, these payments will continue to be made on all eligible claims for the weeks ending April 4 through July 25 – even after the program ends.

Additionally, in the first two weeks of state Extended Benefits, more than \$6 million has been sent to 10,586 claimants who had exhausted all other federal and state unemployment aid.

The number of applicants who have met the earnings requirements to receive benefits has risen to 1.2 million, with 96 percent of them having received payment.

The weekly totals of new unemployment claims are:

March 15 - 21	155,815
March 22 - 28	206,253
March 29 - April 4	214,836
April 5 - 11	141,420
April 12 - 18	140,139
April 19 - 25	71,996
April 26 - May 2	83,326
May 3 - May 9	69,689
May 10 - 16	42,365
May 17 - 23	34,410
May 24 - 30	26,752
May 31 - June 6	23,166
June 7 - 13	26,392

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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

June 14 -20	33,004
June 21 - 27	27,965
June 28 - July 4	47,391
July 5 - 11	38,150
July 12 - 18	25,804*
TOTAL	1,413,873

Below is the weekly breakdown of payments (in millions):

Week	NJ UI Payment	FPUC Payment	PUA Payment	PEUC Payment	EB Payment
March 16 - 20	\$47.4	NA	NA	NA	NA
March 23 - 27	\$57.9	NA	NA	NA	NA
March 30 - April 3	\$89.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 6 - 10	\$140.7	\$154.8	NA	NA	NA
April 13 - 17	\$179.7	\$238.8	NA	NA	NA
April 20 - 24	\$211.1	\$296.3	NA	NA	NA
April 27 - May 1	\$171.7	\$291.1	\$27.1	NA	NA
May 2 - May 8	\$244.7	\$502.4	\$51.6	NA	NA
May 10 -16	\$239.7	\$414.0	\$55.6	NA	NA
May 17 - 23	\$236.2	\$596.9	\$112.3	NA	NA
May 24 - 30	\$242.7	\$553.5	\$87.7	NA	NA
May 31 - June 6	\$255.5	\$635.2	\$56.6	\$56.6	NA
June 7 - 13	\$244.5	\$573.8	\$60.7	\$46.5	NA
June 14 - 20	\$248.9	\$626.1	\$86.6	\$37.4	NA
June 21 - 27	\$240.4	\$559.7	\$73.5	\$31.7	NA
June 28 - July 4	\$202.9	\$536.1	\$71.7	\$31.8	NA
July 5 - 11	\$208.5	\$521.3	\$69.1	\$24.4	\$2.2
July 12 - 18	\$209.3	\$524.5	\$65.2	\$22.7	\$3.9
TOTAL	\$3,471.6	\$7,024.5	\$817.7	\$251.1	\$6.1

NA: Benefit not applicable during the indicated weeks.

FPUC, PUA and PEUC are federal programs authorized by Congress under the CARES Act. FPUC provides an additional \$600 weekly benefit to anyone collecting unemployment for weeks ending April 4 through July 25. PUA provides benefits to newly eligible populations such as self-employed workers, independent contractors and those who do not have enough recent earnings to qualify for regular unemployment benefits, as well as for newly qualifying reasons such as being unable to work because due to caring for others or for their own COVID-19 illness. PEUC provides 13 weeks of federal benefits for those who have exhausted 26 weeks of state unemployment. State extended benefits (EB) automatically offers an additional 20 weeks of assistance once PEUC ends.

For more information on state or federal unemployment programs, visit myunemployment.nj.gov.

For more information on benefit extensions, visit: <https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/apply/extensions/>

Claimants collecting unemployment must certify for benefits each week to continue to receive payments. Information on certifying for unemployment can be found here: <https://myunemployment.nj.gov/labor/myunemployment/schedule.shtml>

Anyone looking for work is encouraged to visit New Jersey's jobs portal -- 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 ended July 18. The number listed for NJ by US Department of Labor – 24,931 – is based on advanced reporting.*

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Department of Labor

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