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New Unemployment Claims Rise During Thanksgiving Week; Federal Jobless Benefits Set to Expire Dec. 26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 03, 2020

TRENTON –The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported more than 13,500 new unemployment applications last week, representing a 1,350-claim increase over the prior week, with federal pandemic jobless benefits set to expire at the end of the year.

The 11 percent uptick in weekly unemployment claims is due, in part, to new and re-opened claims by bus drivers and food service workers whose schools were closed over the Thanksgiving break.

Meanwhile, the Department also reminded independent contractors, those who can't work because of COVID-19, and others who are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) that these benefits expire on Dec. 26. All eligible weeks prior to Dec. 26 will continue to be paid, even after the programs expire. Approximately 312,000 residents are currently receiving PUA; an additional 175,000 are receiving PEUC. Thus far, these federal benefits have not been extended or renewed by Congress.

“This pandemic isn’t done with us yet,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo. “As we see by the numbers of new and continuing claims, workers are still struggling under the weight of layoffs and reductions in hours, as well as the difficulty of finding a new job during COVID. We are improving our service delivery every week so we can answer more questions and resolve more complicated cases to get benefits into the bank accounts of people who desperately need them.”

The Department distributed \$233 million in benefits during the week ending Nov. 28, and has sent a total of \$19.5 billion to workers impacted by the pandemic. The Department will continue to disperse \$300 FEMA Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) payments to eligible claimants who were unemployed between Aug. 1 and Sept. 5 until New Jersey’s federal allotment for the program is exhausted. To date, \$1.3 billion has been distributed.

More than 1.8 million New Jersey workers have filed for unemployment since mid-March. Approximately 1.48 million applicants have earned enough income to qualify for benefits, and 96 percent have received payment. Claimants have received an average of \$13,787 in benefits.

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

Click the images below to view them full-size.

Here is a look at the weekly payments made by the Labor Department to eligible claimants:



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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



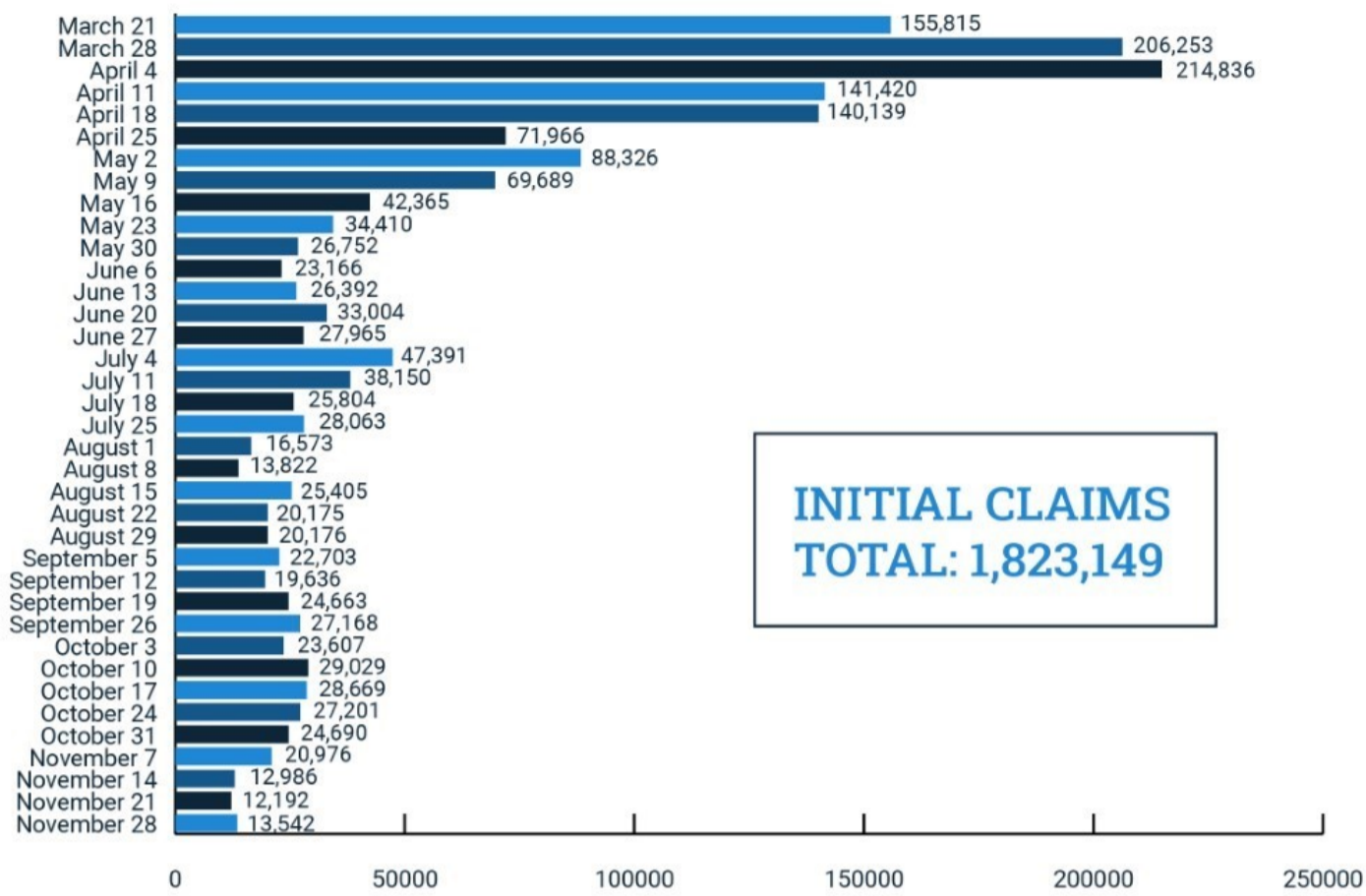
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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) 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)	Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)	Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)	Pandemic Extended Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Extended Unemployment Benefits (EB)	Lost Wages Assistance (LWA)
March 21	\$47.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
March 28	\$57.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 4	\$89.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 11	\$140.7	\$154.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 18	\$179.7	\$238.8	NA	NA	NA	NA
April 25	\$211.1	\$296.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
May 2	\$171.7	\$291.1	\$27.1	NA	NA	NA
May 9	\$244.7	\$502.4	\$51.6	NA	NA	NA
May 16	\$239.7	\$414	\$55.6	NA	NA	NA
May 23	\$236.2	\$596.9	\$112.3	NA	NA	NA
May 30	\$242.7	\$553.5	\$87.7	NA	NA	NA
June 6	\$255.5	\$635.2	\$56.6	\$56.6	NA	NA
June 13	\$244.5	\$573.8	\$60.7	\$46.5	NA	NA
June 20	\$248.9	\$626.1	\$86.6	\$37.4	NA	NA
June 27	\$240.4	\$559.7	\$73.5	\$31.7	NA	NA
July 4	\$202.9	\$536.1	\$71.7	\$31.8	NA	NA
July 11	\$208.5	\$521.3	\$69.1	\$24.4	\$2.2	NA
July 18	\$209.3	\$524.5	\$65.2	\$22.7	\$3.9	NA
July 25	\$197.7	\$526.2	\$77	\$25.7	\$4.8	NA
August 1	\$192.1	\$513.5	\$74.7	\$33.7	\$6.5	NA
August 8	\$202.6	\$200.8	\$86.1	\$20	\$6.2	NA
August 15	\$175	\$95.3	\$77.8	\$23.7	\$7.1	NA
August 22	\$167.3	\$70.3	\$52.1	\$20.4	\$6.7	NA
August 29	\$171.1	\$64.4	\$79.7	\$20.9	\$7.2	NA
September 5	\$129.3	\$56.4	\$84.4	\$20.7	\$8	NA
September 12	\$152.9	\$39.7	\$87.6	\$21.2	\$8.7	NA
September 19	\$137	\$31.4	\$85.3	\$22.6	\$9.6	NA
September 26	\$127.2	\$35.5	\$89.5	\$25.5	\$10.1	NA
October 3	\$111.9	\$23.2	\$82.7	\$33.8	\$10.4	NA
October 10	\$102.8	\$29	\$89	\$45.4	\$11.3	NA
October 17	\$88.5	\$20.5	\$84.5	\$50.8	\$11.8	NA
October 24	\$81.7	\$18.2	\$85.3	\$56.2	\$12.5	\$1,146.5
October 31	\$76.3	\$16.8	\$85.3	\$58.3	\$12.8	\$88.9
November 7	\$72.5	\$13.2	\$83.2	\$59.7	\$12.8	NA
November 14	\$68.2	\$12.9	\$85.1	\$61.9	\$13.6	\$56.2
November 21	\$65.6	\$12.4	\$85.6	\$62.4	\$14.7	\$33.3
November 28	\$63.1	\$9	\$83.9	\$62.1	\$13.5	\$1.3
TOTAL BENEFITS PAID	\$5,834.4	\$8,813	\$2,376.5	\$976.1	\$194.4	\$1,326.2

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. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) provides 13 weeks of federal benefits for those who exhaust 26 weeks of state unemployment. Most of them are able to transition to 20 weeks of state Extended Benefits (EB). Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) provided \$600/week to everyone eligible for unemployment for the weeks of April 4 through July 25. LWA provided up to six weeks of supplemental benefits through FEMA to people unemployed the weeks of Aug. 1 through Sept. 5 due to COVID, and who were eligible for at least \$100 in weekly unemployment.

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

Anyone looking for work is encouraged to visit New Jersey's jobs portal -- 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 Nov. 28. The number listed for New Jersey by the US Department of Labor – 12,873 – is based on advanced reporting.*

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