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/ NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development Records Fewer Unemployment Claims Week Over Week, Sees Steep Decline From Last Year

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2021

TRENTON – Fueled in part by schools re-opening after Spring break, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported a significant week-over-week drop in new unemployment claims last week, and saw 130,000 fewer weekly claims than during the same week a year ago.

For the week ending April 10, a total of 11,344* new unemployment claims were filed, a 43 percent decline from the prior week, following two consecutive weekly increases in new claims. The Department has received 2,114,755** initial unemployment claims since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the state's workforce last year, including 141,420 new claims for the week ending April 11, 2020.

The Department distributed \$416 million in benefits last week, for a cumulative total of \$26.5 billion in pandemic relief dispensed to jobless New Jersey workers. The average claimant in New Jersey has received \$17,600 in benefits.

“While the number of people filing new claims for unemployment has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, the numbers are thankfully much lower than what we were witnessing a year ago. That’s great news for some residents, but the financial hardship of not having a job is still a reality for too many of our friends, neighbors and family. We must continue to work together to make sure every resident has the opportunity to return to work, and experience the dignity that a steady job provides,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo.

New Jersey is the only state to automate the federally required benefit year-end review and refiling of unemployment claims, a process that could have taken up to three months without this enhancement in place. New Jersey has extended benefits on more than 275,000 claims through automation in the past six weeks.

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

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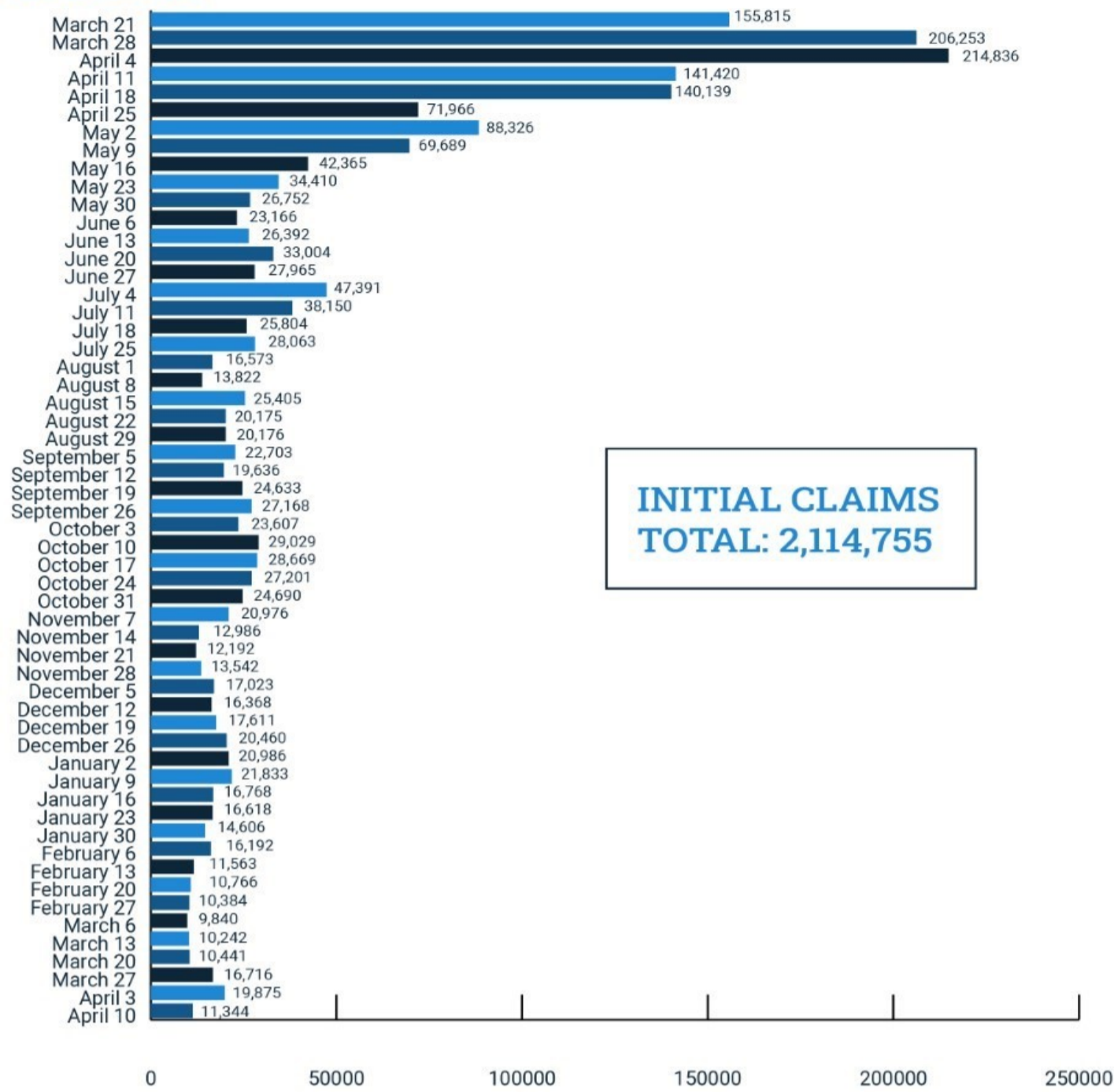
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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) 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
TOTAL BENEFITS PAID	\$6,972.3	\$8,946.6	\$2,383.4	\$3,990	\$2,155.3	\$637.9	\$1,370.1

NA: Benefit not applicable during the indicated weeks.

The American Rescue Plan signed March 11 extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (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 a final 20 weeks of benefits, though that will drop to 13 weeks once the economy recovers sufficiently. 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.

Information on virtual Career Services can be found here: nj.gov/labor/career-services.

Visit New Jersey's jobs portal here: 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 10. The number listed for New Jersey by the US Department of Labor – 10,743 – is based on advanced reporting.*

***The number of new initial claims includes 255,901 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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