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# NJ Labor Dept. Distributes \$300 FEMA Payments to Unemployed Workers

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 2020

**TRENTON** – The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has successfully processed \$1.2 billion in FEMA payments, and eligible claimants can expect to receive this supplemental benefit as a lump-sum payment over the next two business days, depending on their bank.

FEMA Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) is a limited-time federal program that pays supplemental benefits to most workers unemployed during the weeks ending Aug. 1 through Sept. 5 for a COVID-19 related reason. The benefit is \$300 per week for up to six weeks, for a maximum payment of \$1,800.

“Processing these payments required us to develop new programming that had not been tested previously, and it took longer than anticipated for the payments to go through. Our team worked around the clock to get this extra help to hundreds of thousands of people in our state who are in dire need because COVID-19 has upended their work situations.”

The Labor Department announced last week that 800,000-plus claimants were unemployed for at least part of the six-week period covered by the federal program, and would be eligible. Most had already declared their joblessness to be COVID-related, and thus were in line to receive the benefit automatically. Those who had not affirmed a COVID-related reason for their unemployment were required to provide an attestation by Oct. 16. Those claimants received emails, text messages and calls from the department with instructions.

Because this is a federal program, the New Jersey Labor Department has no control over whether additional funds will be released for another round of payments.

The Labor Department has received 1.7 million unemployment applications since mid-March, including 28,669\* new claims for the week ending Oct. 17, a 1 percent decline from the prior week. Roughly 1.45 million applicants have met the monetary requirements for benefits, and 96 percent have received payment.

The Department has distributed \$16.7 billion in unemployment benefits during the pandemic, including \$256 million last week. Benefits to the average worker top \$12,000.

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



**NJ Labor Department**  
@NJLaborDept

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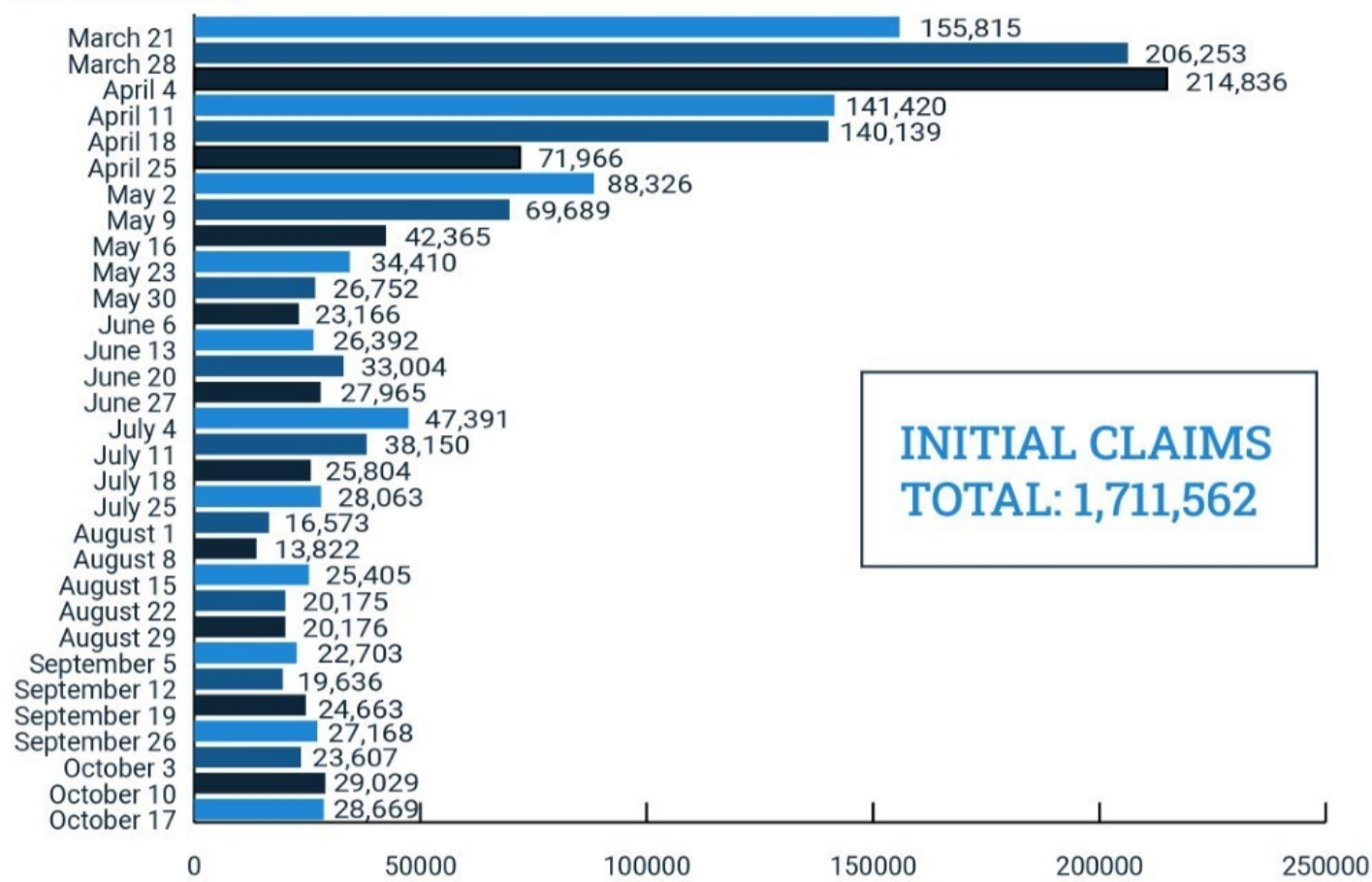
As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) for updates and available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



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

## Weekly totals of new unemployment claims

WEEK ENDING:



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

## 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
September 26	\$127.2	\$35.5	\$89.5	\$25.5	\$10.1
October 3	\$111.9	\$23.2	\$82.7	\$33.8	\$10.4
October 10	\$102.8	\$29	\$89	\$45.4	\$11.3
October 17	\$88.5	\$20.5	\$84.5	\$50.8	\$11.8
<b>TOTAL BENEFITS PAID</b>	<b>\$5,407</b>	<b>\$8,730.5</b>	<b>\$1,868.1</b>	<b>\$615.5</b>	<b>\$114.5</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. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which 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.

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

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 Oct. 17. The number listed for New Jersey by the US Department of Labor – 27,652 – is based on advanced reporting.*

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