



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OESC Releases Latest Claims and Pending Numbers

More than \$1.4 billion in payments made; less than 3,000 claims pending

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) is releasing claims numbers from March to June for unemployment insurance (UI), pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA), as well as current pending claims. From March 1 to June 19 more than \$1.4 billion in total payments (UI, PUA, FPUC and PEUC) have been made.

UI Claims

- Total UI claims processed March 1 - June 21: 586,460
- Total UI claims approved: 234,437
- Total UI claims denied: 350,041
- Total UI claims in review: 1,982

PUA Claims

- Total PUA claims processed March 1 - June 21: 46,518
- Total PUA claims approved: 12,221
- Total PUA claims denied: 7,145
- Total PUA claims in review: 990

“Despite these promising numbers, I see the line in front of our Will Rogers Building every day. We are working tirelessly to create solutions to help Oklahomans get the help they need,” said OESC Interim Executive Director Shelley Zumwalt. “We are continuing to evolve our processes and protocols to get Oklahomans served as efficiently and effectively as possible. This is an unprecedented time and we are processing more claims than ever before.”

“In addition, while in this increased level of activity during the pandemic, OESC has continually processed more PUA claims in one week than an entire pre-pandemic month,” Zumwalt said. “According to our most recent numbers, less than 3,000 claims are pending or in review - all other filed claims have been either approved or denied. I’m also acknowledging there are other PUA claims that are not completed and those people could be counting themselves in the ‘backlog’.”

Weekly Unemployment Numbers for Week Ending June 20

- The advance number of initial claims, unadjusted, totaled 49,208, a decrease of 35,571 from the previous week's revised level of 84,779.
- The less volatile initial claims 4-week moving average was 67,972, an increase of 1,374 from the previous week's revised average of 66,599.
- The advance unadjusted number for continued claims totaled 178,974, an increase of 5,613 from the previous week's revised level of 173,361.
- The 4-week moving average was 170,360, an increase of 9,945 from the previous week's revised average of 160,415, for continued claims.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted initial claims totaled 1,480,000, a decrease of 60,000 from the previous week's revised level of 1,540,000. The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate for the country was 13.4% for the week ending June 13, a decrease of 0.5 percentage point from the previous week's revised rate of 13.9 percent.

The national weekly seasonally adjusted initial claims report is one of 10 components in the Composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators. To smooth out the volatility in the weekly initial claims data, a 4-week moving average is used to assess trends.

Claimant Resources

Individuals seeking unemployment benefits under the CARES Act should go to <https://ui.ok.gov> and create an account with the Get Started button to connect their social security number and pull all unemployment information into one location.

Unemployment claimants should be aware that not returning to work when recalled or when work is available could potentially lead to disqualification from receiving unemployment benefits.

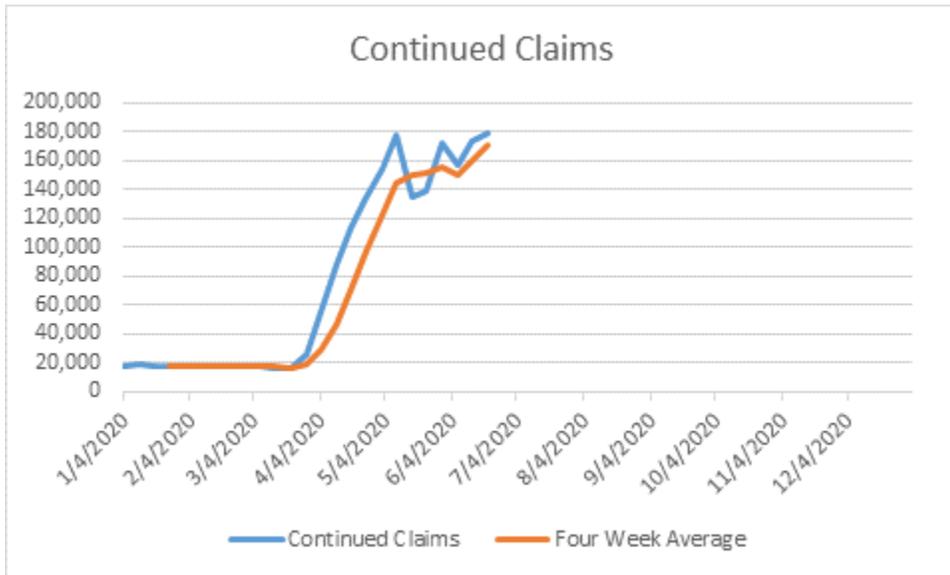
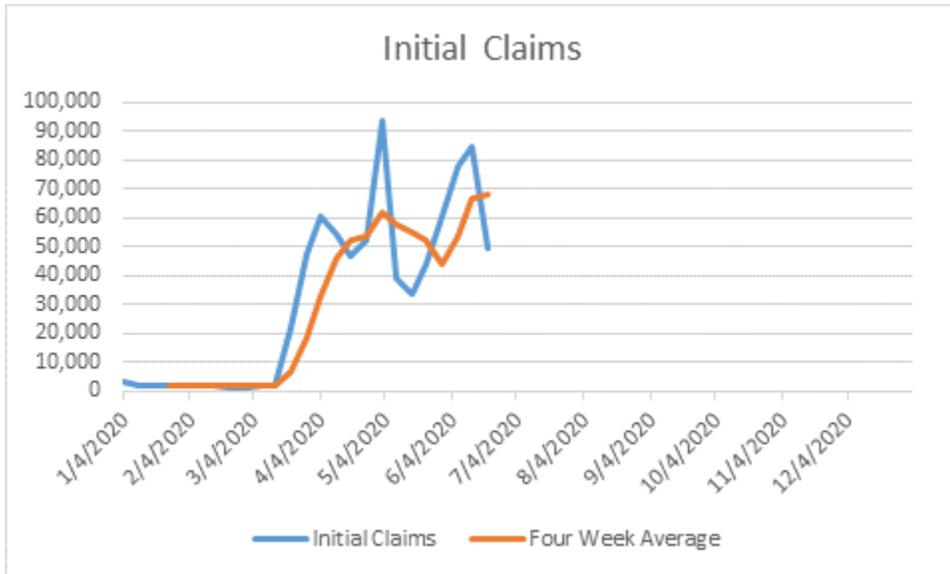
Employers may report this activity by emailing returntowork@oesc.state.ok.us, calling 405-962-7524, or mailing OESC at P.O. Box 52006, Oklahoma City, OK, 73152-2006.

If a claimant returns to work fulltime, they should keep their unemployment claim open with OESC and not certify a weekly claim. If they return part-time, a claimant may continue to certify their weekly claim and must report all gross earnings for the week to potentially receive a partial benefit. Eligibility for continued benefits is determined on the circumstances of each individual claimant.

OESC is an excellent resource for people looking to re-enter the job market by connecting Oklahomans with available employment through <https://okjobmatch.com/>.

If a PUA-eligible claimant reopens their business, they will still receive backdated unemployment benefits to when their COVID-19-related job loss or business closure occurred.

Updated Graphs for Week Ending June 20



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