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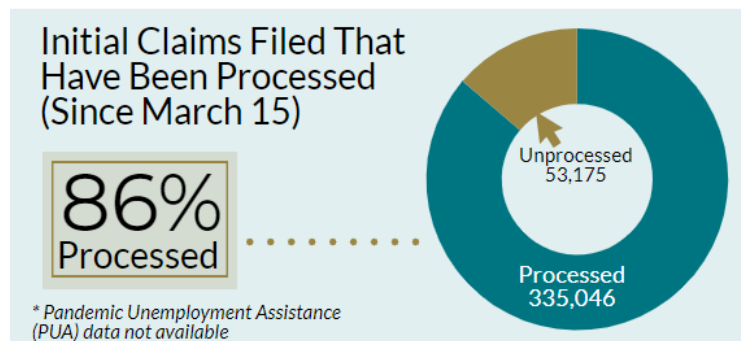
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Initial Claims and Unemployment Benefits in Oregon

During the week of May 3 to May 9, 2020, the Oregon Employment Department received 14,100 initial claims for unemployment benefits. The agency has received 396,000 initial claims since COVID-19 business closures began in mid-March.

Helping Oregonians

Almost nine out of 10 (86%) initial claims for regular unemployment benefits received between March 15 and May 9 have been processed. For each of the past five weeks, more claims for regular benefits have been processed than received in Oregon.



The record-level claims processing by the Employment Department continues to help communities across Oregon as the economy transitions to re-opening. If measured by dollars paid, Unemployment Insurance would now be the largest paying subsector of Oregon's economy. By comparison, unemployment benefits would have ranked 37th by payroll prior to the COVID-19 closures.

Still, tens of thousands of unemployment claims remain unprocessed, and some have been waiting for benefits for six or seven weeks. The Employment Department recognizes the importance to getting benefits to everyone who needs them. The agency continues expanding its capacity, with a new contact center now open, and a total of 690 employees processing claims. Claims processing continues seven days per week. The Employment Department also continues to make thousands of call-backs every day to Oregonians who need to have their claims processed.

Next week the Employment Department plans to issue two news releases. Oregon's unemployment rate for April is scheduled to be published at 10:00 a.m. on May 19. The Employment Department also expects launch of the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program next week. PEUC provides 13 weeks of additional benefits for those who have run out of regular benefits, and remain out of work due to COVID-19 closures.

Initial unemployment claims data will continue to be updated each Thursday on the [QualityInfo.org COVID-19](#) page. Information about new unemployment benefit programs, questions about resuming business operations, and other resources continue to be updated regularly on the Employment Department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Initial Claims

The Employment Department has detailed information for about 25,000 of the 32,000 initial claims processed during the week of May 3 to May 9. The greatest number of initial claims continued to come from the accommodation and food services sector, with 68,400 initial claims filed in the industry since March 15. Other sectors with the largest number of initial claims totals since March 15 include health care and social assistance (43,100) and retail trade (36,400). However, every sector of the economy has seen increased claims activity.

Oregon Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims by Sector

Sector	Week of May 3 - 9, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Natural Resources and Mining	398	3,483
Construction	1,856	19,663
Manufacturing	3,411	29,732
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	5,135	52,689
Wholesale Trade	891	7,605
Retail Trade	3,272	36,394
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	972	8,690
Information	382	3,197
Financial Activities	798	6,784
Professional and Business Services	2,892	25,591
Education and Health Services	4,227	50,255
Educational Services	809	7,146
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,418	43,109
Leisure and Hospitality	4,398	77,131
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	719	8,752
Accommodation and Food Services	3,679	68,379
Other Services	1,541	17,146

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Industry details not available for all claims

Multnomah (5,500), Washington (3,200), and Clackamas (2,400) counties had the largest number of claims during the week of May 3 to May 9. More initial claims data by industry and area can be found on the QualityInfo.org [COVID-19 page](#).

Oregon Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County

County	Initial Claims Week of May 3 - 9, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020	County	Initial Claims Week of May 3 - 9, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Baker	52	726	Lake	19	190
Benton	313	4,587	Lane	2,059	26,226
Clackamas	2,379	26,410	Lincoln	296	4,361
Clatsop	258	3,848	Linn	663	8,334
Columbia	278	2,929	Malheur	54	698
Coos	302	4,234	Marion	1,750	19,055
Crook	132	1,542	Morrow	34	316
Curry	114	1,177	Multnomah	5,483	64,334
Deschutes	1,188	16,122	Polk	392	4,391
Douglas	819	6,993	Sherman	4	68
Gilliam	3	56	Tillamook	139	1,785
Grant	30	334	Umatilla	287	3,790
Harney	11	231	Union	102	1,721
Hood River	163	1,691	Wallowa	32	286
Jackson	1,286	14,785	Wasco	160	1,567
Jefferson	181	1,562	Washington	3,193	34,563
Josephine	438	4,706	Wheeler	5	18
Klamath	344	3,499	Yamhill	612	6,903

Source: Oregon Employment Department

To file an online claim for unemployment benefits, go to Oregon.gov/employ or call 1-877-FILE-4-UI. For help finding jobs and training resources, contact your local WorkSource Oregon center or go to WorkSourceOregon.org. Equal Opportunity program — auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact: (503) 947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.