

# Media Update June 25, 2020



**Employment  
Security  
Department**  
WASHINGTON STATE

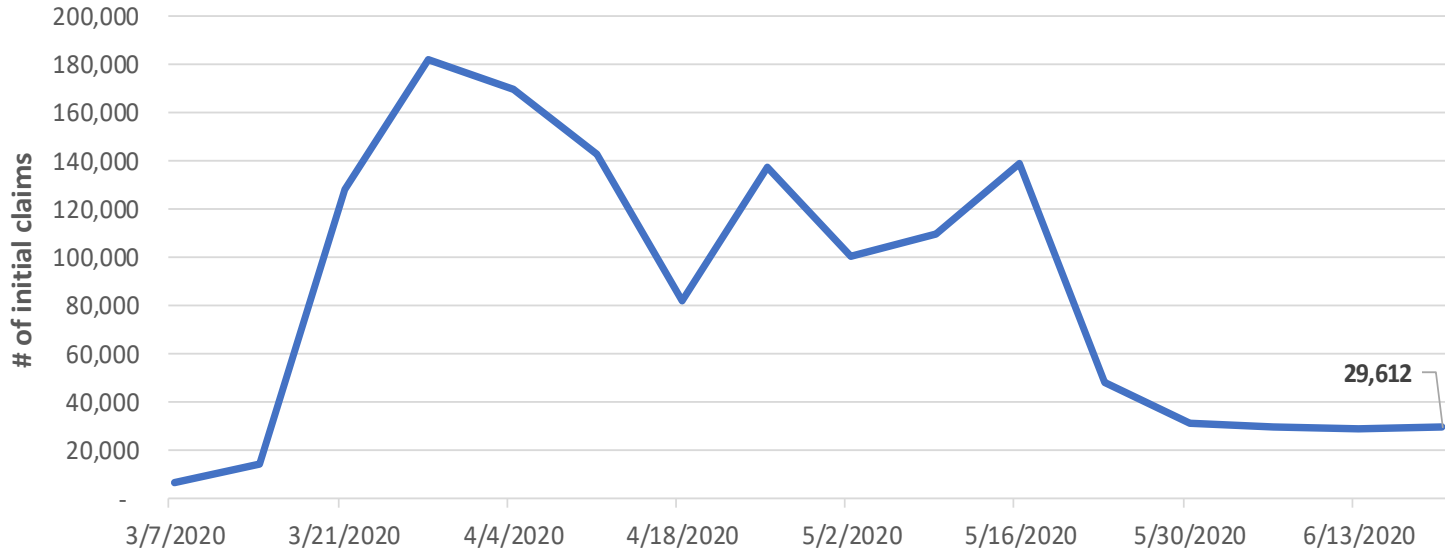
# Since the week ending March 7



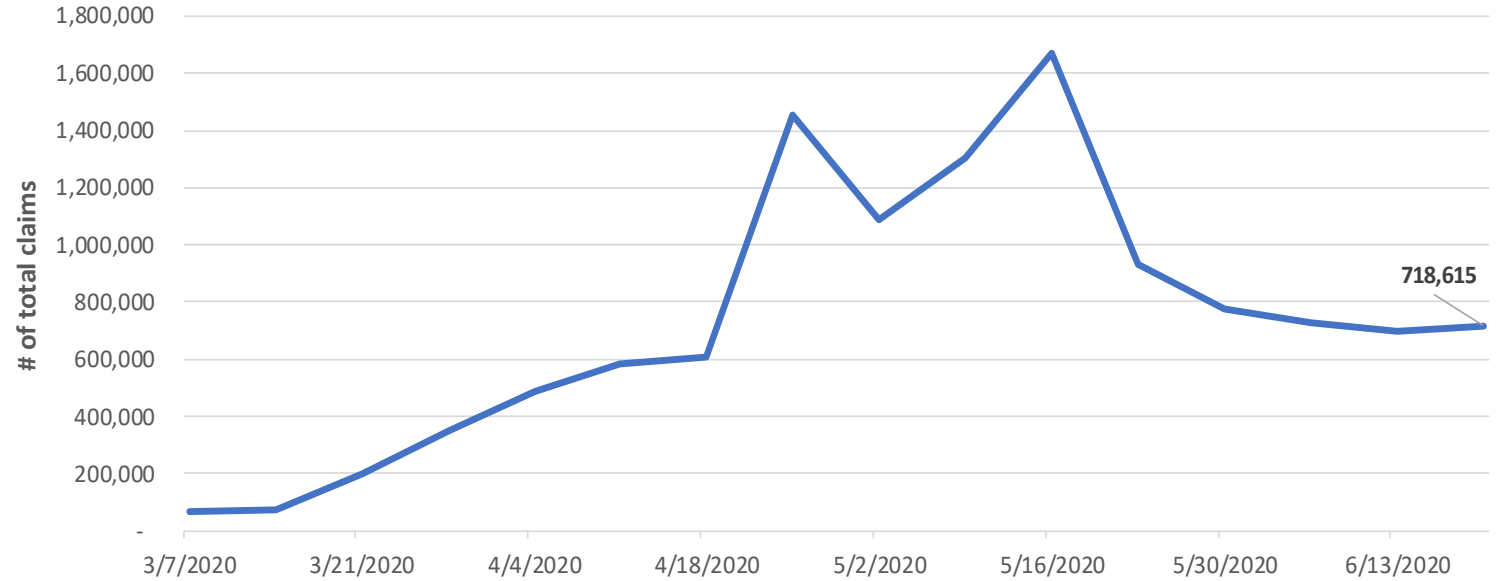
- A total of 2,154,353 initial claims have been filed during the pandemic
  - 1,346,541 regular unemployment insurance
  - 433,009 PUA
  - 374,803 PEUC
- A total of 1,119,821 distinct individuals have filed for unemployment benefits
- ESD has paid out over \$6.5 billion in benefits
- 875,979 individuals who have filed an initial claim have been paid



### Statewide initial regular claims - 16 week summary



### Statewide total claims



# Operation 100% - Update



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# Operation 100%

## Average weeks waiting (claims w/issues)

Standard: 3 weeks

Current: 6.4 weeks

Goal by July 31: 4 weeks

## Unpaid individuals

Baseline set 6/15: **81,508**

As of June 24, 2020	
Weeks Waiting	Individuals
1	4,568
2	4,010
3	3,338
4	4,346
5	7,330
6	17,250
7	6,767
8	6,527
9	6,547
10	4,561
11	4,130
12	1,921
13	342
14	24
15	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,679</b>

# Fraud Update



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# Return to Work/Refusal to Work



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Expanded unemployment checklist  
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**AFTER APPLYING**  
Application confirmation  
Submit weekly claim  
Benefits decision  
Benefit denials, appeals  
Estimate your benefit  
When payments begin  
Sign up for direct deposit  
Sign up for debit card  
Update your information  
Unemployed Worker Handbook

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**ALERT Affected by COVID-19?**

**Workers & Businesses:** Learn more about important changes and subscribe to updates about our response to COVID-19.

**NOTE:** These pages will continue to be updated as new information becomes available. Please check back frequently for updates. (Last updated 6/23/2020)

## Return to work

As the economy reopens in phases during the COVID-19 crisis, the Employment Security Department and its workforce partners are supporting workers and businesses with continued unemployment and re-employment services. This Return to Work page provides a range of resources including information on job and training opportunities for workers and resources to maintain a skilled workforce for employers, as well as information on unemployment benefit eligibility, conducting work search activities, offers to return to work and more.

We encourage workers and businesses to continually revisit this page and sign up for COVID-19 action alerts to stay up to date.

**On this page:** [Information for employers](#) | [Information for workers](#)

### Information for employers

**Maintain a skilled workforce**

- Post a job and find the right candidate at WorkSource Washington.
- Learn more about WorkSource business services by reviewing these [frequently asked questions](#) about WorkSource.
- Looking for new employees? [WorkSource is here to help!](#)
- Our labor market branch and regional economists can give you insight into our state's employment conditions, economy, job market and workforce.

**Avoid layoffs and re-open your business with SharedWork**

SharedWork allows employers to reduce hours by as much as 50 percent, while their employees collect partial benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. This is a great way to avoid layoffs, retain staff and save your business money while the economy reopens. Through the end of July, even employees working part-time will receive an additional \$600 per week on top of their benefits (anyone who is eligible for at least \$1 of regular unemployment benefits is eligible for this additional money). This will make it more financially viable for them to work part-time as you re-open and they return to work.

**Employees refusing to return to work?**  
Are you ready to bring back employees but the work was

**COVID-19 QUESTIONS**  
How can we help?

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## Refusal of work

Individuals receiving unemployment benefits must be able and available for suitable work, this includes an offer to return to work after being laid off due to COVID-19. People receiving unemployment benefits must have a good-cause reason not to accept an offer to return to work to continue receiving benefits.

This page includes useful Questions & Answers for employers, as well as Questions & Answers to help workers consider offers to return to work and to navigate the unemployment process.

**On this page:** [Q&A for employers](#) | [Q&A for workers.](#)

### Questions and answers

#### Q&A for employers

**Q: I provided an offer to return to work to an employee who is refusing to return. What should I do?**

**A:** Generally, someone does not have the option to choose between receiving unemployment benefits or an offer to return to suitable work from their employer. Individuals must have a "good cause" reason not to accept suitable work in order to continue receiving unemployment benefits or Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) under the federal CARES Act.

Good cause reasons an employee may refuse work and continue to collect unemployment benefits and PUA include:

- Being at high risk of or sick with COVID-19 or taking care of a household member who is at high risk of or sick with COVID-19 when there are no telework options.
- Staying home to take care of a young child because their school or daycare is closed.
- If you have substantially changed the job they are coming back to, such as you significantly cut their pay or moved the job location a significant distance away, or the worksite does not meet COVID-19 safety guidelines, they may refuse that work and continue to collect benefits.

When an employee files a new or reopened unemployment benefit claim, you may be notified and can dispute the employee's claim to have been laid off through no fault of their own. You can appeal a decision by the Employment Security Department to provide unemployment benefits to a worker, though you cannot appeal the decision to provide PUA.

**COVID-19 QUESTIONS**  
How can we help?

Closing / Questions



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