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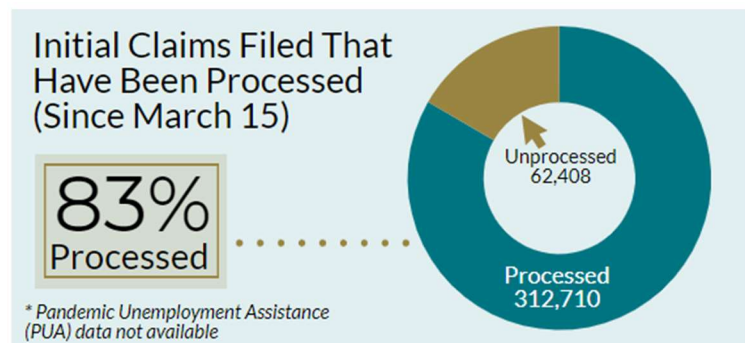
Initial Claims and Unemployment Benefits in Oregon

During the week of April 26 to May 2, the Oregon Employment Department received 19,600 initial claims for unemployment benefits. The agency has received more than 381,800 initial claims since COVID-19 businesses closures began in mid-March.

Helping Oregonians

Four out of five (83%) initial claims for regular unemployment benefits received between March 15 and May 2 have been processed. For each of the past four weeks, more claims have been processed than received in Oregon.

The Employment Department has also processed more than 10,000 applications for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits for the self-employed, contract, gig, and other workers not eligible for regular unemployment benefits.



The agency continues expanding its ability to process more claims for unemployment benefits. There are currently 635 employees working unemployment claims, with more hiring underway and a new contact center opening next week. Claims processing continues seven days per week.

In addition to more staffing, the Employment Department also continues working to implement more unemployment benefit programs. Programming and testing is underway for the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program. This provides up to 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits for those who have run out of benefits and remain out of work due to COVID-19 business closures. Program eligibility and more details for this and other programs are available in the [CARES Act](#) section of the agency's [COVID-19 page](#).

Initial Claims

The Employment Department has detailed information of about 30,300 of the 45,100 initial claims processed during the week of April 26 to May 2. The greatest number of initial claims continued to come from the accommodation and food services sector, with 64,700 initial claims filed in the industry since March 15. Other sectors with the largest initial claims totals since March 15 include health care and social assistance (39,700) and retail trade (33,100).

Every sector of the economy has seen increased claims activity. Accommodation and food services' share of total claims is declining, although the industry still accounts for 28 percent of initial claims

since mid-March. Shares of total initial claims are increasing in retail trade, manufacturing, administrative and waste services, and wholesale trade.

Multnomah (6,500), Washington (3,900), and Clackamas (2,900) counties had the largest number of claims during the week of April 26 to May 2. More initial claims data by industry and area can be found on the QualityInfo.org [COVID-19](#) [page](#).

Oregon Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims by Sector

Sector	Week of April 26 - May 2, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Natural Resources and Mining	390	3,085
Construction	1,826	17,807
Manufacturing	3,775	26,321
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,668	47,554
Wholesale Trade	1,010	6,714
Retail Trade	4,441	33,122
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,217	7,718
Information	321	2,815
Financial Activities	857	5,986
Professional and Business Services	3,387	22,699
Education and Health Services	5,257	46,028
Educational Services	878	6,337
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,379	39,691
Leisure and Hospitality	5,980	72,733
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	896	8,033
Accommodation and Food Services	5,084	64,700
Other Services	1,775	15,605

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Industry details not available for all claims.

Oregon Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County

County	Initial Claims Week of April 26 - May 2, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020	County	Initial Claims Week of April 26 - May 2, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Baker	65	674	Lake	27	171
Benton	463	4,274	Lane	2,555	24,167
Clackamas	2,920	24,031	Lincoln	411	4,065
Clatsop	359	3,590	Linn	883	7,671
Columbia	301	2,651	Malheur	89	644
Coos	407	3,932	Marion	2,073	17,305
Crook	156	1,410	Morrow	32	282
Curry	117	1,063	Multnomah	6,493	58,851
Deschutes	1,483	14,934	Polk	475	3,999
Douglas	696	6,174	Sherman	10	64
Gilliam	8	53	Tillamook	176	1,646
Grant	54	304	Umatilla	336	3,503
Harney	21	220	Union	142	1,619
Hood River	163	1,528	Wallowa	28	254
Jackson	1,712	13,499	Wasco	165	1,407
Jefferson	231	1,381	Washington	3,850	31,370
Josephine	519	4,268	Wheeler	4	13
Klamath	378	3,155	Yamhill	760	6,291

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.