

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020  
**Media Contact:** Dawn Dovre, 605-773-3101

## Unemployment Initial Weekly Claims Decrease

PIERRE, S.D. – During the week of Aug. 9-15, a total of 741 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is a decrease of 232 claims from the prior week's total of 973.

A total of \$1.6 million was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$1.8 million in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$700,000 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$89,000 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was \$127.3 million on Aug. 16.

The latest number of continued state claims is 14,715 for the week ending Aug. 1, a decrease of 749 from the prior week's total of 15,464. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

Benefits paid since March 16:

- Regular State = \$74.5 million
- FPUC = \$196.7 million
- PUA = \$10.4 million
- PEUC = \$1.1 million

**Total = Approximately \$283 million**

- 30 -

**NOTE:** DLR will send out weekly news release updates on new unemployment claims every Thursday after the U.S. Department of Labor publishes the official release at 8:30 a.m. EDT. View at [https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims\\_arch.asp](https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp).