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Unemployment Continued Claims Decrease by 16,000 Since Pandemic Peak

PIERRE, S.D. – The latest number of continued state unemployment claims is 9,051 for the week ending Aug. 15, a decrease of 16,135 from the pandemic high of 25,186 week ending May 9. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

“We continue to see indicators our economy is rebounding more quickly than other states,” said state Labor and Regulation Secretary Marcia Hultman. “More than 16,000 South Dakotans are now back to work. This is a sign we truly are open for business.”

During the week of Aug. 16-22, a total of 752 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is a decrease of 32 claims from the prior week’s total of 784.

A total of \$1.5 million was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$2.7 million in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$1.2 million in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$105,000 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was \$123.5 million on Aug. 23.

Benefits paid since March 16:

- Regular State = \$76.0 million
- FPUC = \$199.5 million
- PUA = \$11.5 million
- PEUC = \$1.2 million

Total = Approximately \$288.2 million

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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.