

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020  
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## **Unemployment Claims Filed for Week Ending Dec. 19**

PIERRE, S.D. – During the week of Dec. 13-19, a total of 696 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is a decrease of 230 claims from the prior week's total of 926.

A total of \$922,000 was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$265,000 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$278,000 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$214,000 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was \$118.8 million on Dec. 20.

The latest number of continued state claims is 4,144 for the week ending Dec. 12, an increase of 300 from the prior week's total of 3,844. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

Benefits paid since March 16:

- Regular State = \$92.1 million
- FPUC = \$210.3 million
- PUA = \$18.2 million
- PEUC = \$3.9 million

**Total = Approximately \$324.5 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](https://oui.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims_arch.asp).