

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021  
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## **Unemployment Claims Filed for Week Ending Jan. 2**

PIERRE, S.D. – During the week of Dec. 27 through Jan. 2, a total of 542 initial weekly claims for state unemployment benefits were processed by the Department of Labor and Regulation. This is a decrease of 113 claims from the prior week's total of 655.

A total of \$1.0 million was paid out in state benefits, in addition to \$150,000 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), \$220,000 in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and \$175,000 in Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits.

South Dakota began paying the additional \$300 weekly FPUC benefit effective week ending Jan. 2. This is a new, extended provision under the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020.

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance was \$117.7 million on Jan. 3.

The latest number of continued state claims is 4,704 for the week ending Dec. 26, an increase of 1,020 from the prior week's total of 3,684. This indicates the number of unemployed workers eligible for and receiving benefits after their initial claim.

Benefits paid since March 16, 2020:

- Regular State = \$94.0 million
- FPUC = \$210.7 million
- PUA = \$18.7 million
- PEUC = \$4.3 million

**Total = Approximately \$327.7 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).