

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 30, 2020

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Gail Kiles Krumenauer](#), Communications Director

Phone: (503) 947-1268

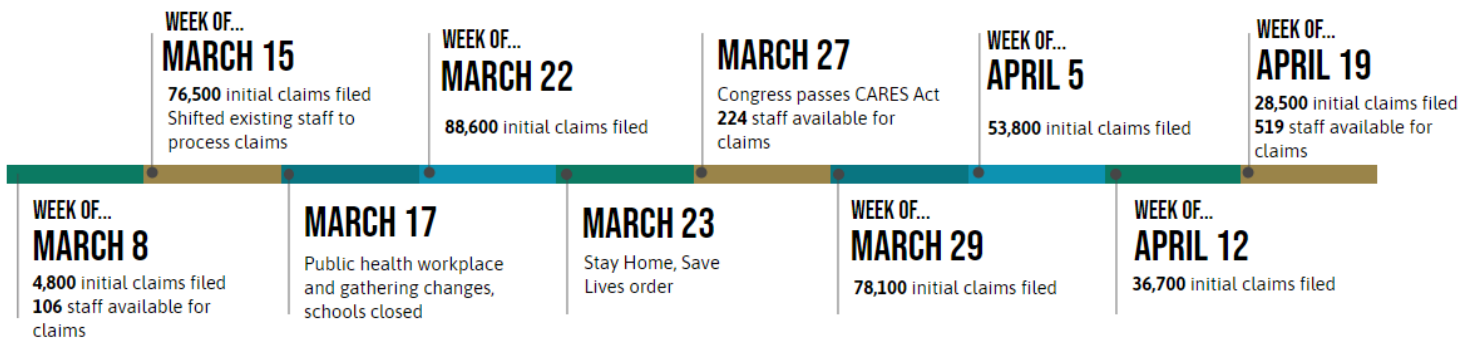
Initial Claims and Additional Unemployment Benefits in Oregon

During the week of April 19 to April 25, the Oregon Employment Department received 28,500 initial claims for unemployment benefits. Since public health and safety measures began the week starting March 15, Oregon has received more than 362,200 initial claims for unemployment insurance.

Helping Oregonians

The Employment Department has processed three out of every four [initial claims received](#) between March 15 and April 25, and continues expanding its processing ability. The agency now has 610 employees dedicated to processing unemployment claims. A new contact center is expected to open in May. Current contact centers have expanded call hours from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, are giving call-backs to those with unprocessed claims, and employees continue processing claims seven days per week.

After starting up the Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (“the \$600”) and the newly created Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program for self-employed, contract, and gig workers, the Employment Department is now working towards implementing the third piece of the [CARES Act](#). The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program extends benefits for up to 13 weeks for those who have run out of benefits and remain out of work due to COVID-19 closures.



Initial Claims

For each of the past three weeks, more initial claims have been processed than received. The Employment Department has detailed information for 29,700 of the 46,700 claims processed during the week of April 19 to April 25.

The greatest number of initial claims continued to come from the accommodation and food services sector (5,100). Since March 15th, there have been about 59,600 initial claims filed in this industry. Other sectors with the largest initial claims totals over the past six weeks include health care and social assistance (35,300) and retail trade (28,700). Every sector of the economy has seen increased claims

activity though. Initial claims totaled 22,500 in manufacturing and 16,000 in construction since March 15th.

Multnomah (6,200), Washington (3,600), and Clackamas (3,000) counties had the largest number of claims during the week of April 19 to April 25. 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	Initial Claims Week of April 19-25, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Natural Resources and Mining	332	2,695
Construction	1,865	15,981
Manufacturing	4,337	22,546
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,311	40,886
Wholesale Trade	917	5,704
Retail Trade	4,348	28,681
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,046	6,501
Information	264	2,494
Financial Activities	813	5,129
Professional and Business Services	2,826	19,312
Education and Health Services	5,167	40,771
Educational Services	718	5,459
Health Care and Social Assistance	4,449	35,312
Leisure and Hospitality	5,930	66,753
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	863	7,137
Accommodation and Food Services	5,067	59,616
Other Services	1,771	13,830

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Industry details not available for all claims.

Oregon Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims by County

County	Initial Claims Week of April 19 - 25, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020	County	Initial Claims Week of April 19 - 25, 2020	Total Initial Claims Since March 15, 2020
Baker	74	609	Lake	15	144
Benton	458	3,811	Lane	2,625	21,612
Clackamas	2,986	21,111	Lincoln	408	3,654
Clatsop	352	3,231	Linn	934	6,788
Columbia	293	2,350	Malheur	82	555
Coos	448	3,525	Marion	1,992	15,232
Crook	174	1,254	Morrow	34	250
Curry	136	946	Multnomah	6,177	52,358
Deschutes	1,537	13,451	Polk	449	3,524
Douglas	779	5,478	Sherman	7	54
Gilliam	-c-	45	Tillamook	194	1,470
Grant	41	250	Umatilla	400	3,167
Harney	36	199	Union	130	1,477
Hood River	161	1,365	Wallowa	29	226
Jackson	1,478	11,787	Wasco	149	1,242
Jefferson	218	1,150	Washington	3,592	27,520
Josephine	488	3,749	Wheeler	-c-	9
Klamath	424	2,777	Yamhill	878	5,531

-c- data suppressed for confidentiality

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.