



# An Analysis of Unemployment Insurance Claims in California During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## SUMMARY

A defining feature of the COVID-19 crisis in the labor market has been sharp and historically unprecedented increases in the number of initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims. This policy brief uses close to real-time information on daily initial UI claims in California from the state's Employment Development Department to better understand the magnitude of COVID-19's labor market impacts and how different types of workers are experiencing these impacts. This research is based on a partnership between the Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department and the California Policy Lab, a research center at the University of California, with sites at the UCLA and Berkeley campuses.

The size and richness of the administrative data we use allows examining how the crisis in the labor market has affected workers by gender, age, education, race, and ethnic groups, as well as by detailed regions and industries. These analyses complement both traditional survey-based measures of labor market outcomes, which are very detailed but suffer from large lags and low frequency, and weekly publications of total UI claims, which are timely but lack the detail available here. Our findings are especially important given the fast-moving nature of the crisis and their potential usefulness in better assisting workers and firms affected by the upheaval in the labor market.

Relative to the brief published on July 2nd, this brief presents new estimates of the number of *unique* Californians who have filed claims since the onset of the crisis, the number of Californians filing “additional claims” each week, and a demographic breakdown of these claimants. To the authors' knowledge, this report is the first to describe the share of “initial claims” for different industries and demographic groups during the crisis which are actually additional claims – i.e., the re-opening of unexpired claims after a missed certification.

The brief also analyzes the impact of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) on unemployed workers in California. The brief reports information on new claims through July 25th, and hence allows us to take stock of the state of the labor market as the California economy grapples with the recent rise in COVID-19 cases

and the associated state-mandated shutdown orders.

Unless otherwise stated, we focus on initial claims for regular UI benefits originating from claimants residing in California. In this policy brief, we will refer to these claims as “initial UI claims.”<sup>1</sup> We will also report information on initial claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for those that do not qualify for regular UI benefits, as well as payment information for people with ongoing UI claims.

### Key Insights from June to July:

- Labor market signals from UI data are uneven. The number of initial UI claims has increased steadily from May 17<sup>th</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup>, followed by a slight drop in the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. In each of the last nine weeks, regular initial UI claims were over two times the peak of weekly initial claims during the Great Recession, yet data from continuing claims indicates a gradual decline in the number of individuals collecting benefits each week.
- A key finding of this report is that the steady rise in initial claims since May 17<sup>th</sup> is nearly entirely explained by an increasing number of additional claims—claims which are “reopened” after a claimant's temporary return to work, implying many workers suffered from repeated layoffs during the crisis. In the week ending July 25<sup>th</sup>, 57% of regular initial claims were additional claims, compared to just above 40% before the crisis, and 5% during the peak.

- This is the first study publishing the number of unique claimants in the state, instead of tallying all initial claims, which results in substantial double-counting. 6.23 million unique California claimants, or 32% of the California workforce, has filed for UI benefits since the start of the COVID-19 crisis in mid-March. Since many of these 6.23 million workers have filed multiple claims, this total is substantially smaller (24% less) than the 8.18 million initial claims that have been filed in the same period.
- In the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, 3.46 million claimants, or about 18% of the CA labor force, were eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits. Unlike more common statistics of weekly UI payment receipt, we are able to count claimants in terms of when they were unemployed, not when they were paid (which is usually several weeks later, and complicated by varying processing lags).
- As illustrated in our [Data Point](#), without the \$600 per week additional benefits from FPUC, half of all individuals receiving UI benefits would have received payments below the Federal Poverty Level. California claimants have received \$35.5 billion in FPUC payments for unemployment experienced between the start of the program and July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- We find that in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, a total of 529 thousand individuals (or 2.7% of the labor force) either received partial UI or were denied benefits because of excess earnings. The share of paid claimants receiving partial benefits has risen substantially since early May, but ticked down during the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>. This indicates a substantial fraction of individuals that recently returned to work are working reduced hours and may still be receiving unemployment benefits.
- Much like the first wave of initial claims seen in the early days of the crisis, the steady rise in initial claims since May 17<sup>th</sup> is concentrated among less advantaged workers. Of all initial claims filed since July 5<sup>th</sup>, 18% were filed by members of Generation Z and 53% were filed by workers with a high school degree or less.
- The share of additional claimants varies dramatically between industries, with workers from Food Services, along with Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation especially likely to re-open claims. The share of additional claims has risen dramatically since the peak of the crisis, and is also higher than pre-crisis levels. The retail trade industry stands out especially: less than 30% of initial claims from the industry were additional before the crisis, yet nearly 70% of initial claims were additional in the week ending July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Individuals filing additional claims are more likely to be females, younger, and Hispanic or Asian. Hispanic workers made up 44% of additional claimants in the week ending July 25<sup>th</sup>, but only 34% of the new initial claimants.
- Recall expectations among initial claimants are still well above pre-crisis levels, but are lower than during the pandemic's onset. Using our preferred measure, we find that 61% of new claimants in the last two weeks expect to be recalled, down from 90% of those filing in late March. Still, prior to the pandemic only 30% of new claimants anticipated recall.
- As the economy slowly re-opens, programs such as Work Sharing, which allow working claimants to keep a share of their UI benefits and maintain eligibility for the FPUC payment (assuming it is renewed), would help strengthen the financial outlook for workers who are working at reduced time and earnings.

This policy brief was first published on April 29, 2020, and it will be updated regularly as additional information on UI claims becomes available. Administrative data sources such as these sometimes get revised, and the numbers in this policy brief should be taken as preliminary.

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## A Large Number of Previous Claims Are Being Re-opened, While New Initial UI Claims Continue at Elevated Rate

There were a total of 377,405 initial Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims filed in the week of July 19<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup> in California, a 10% decrease from the 419,222 filed during the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> – July 18<sup>th</sup>, and a 6% decrease from 400,042 filed during the week July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup>. These numbers include Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) claims, which the EDD began processing on April 28<sup>th</sup>, “additional claims”, and new initial claims. An additional claim occurs when an earlier claim was filed by the same individual, at least one week of certification was skipped

because the claimant returned to work, and then the claim was subsequently re-opened before the benefit year expired. Additional claims made up 56% of regular claims during the week ending July 25<sup>th</sup>, down from 58% of total claims in the week ending July 18<sup>th</sup>, but well above the levels seen before the crisis. (Just above 40% in February). The *number* of additional claimants has been especially high in July, averaging nearly 160,000 in the last three weeks, compared to just above 40,000 in the worst two weeks of the crisis in mid to late March.<sup>2</sup>

PUA claims made up 35% of total initial claims during the week ending July 25<sup>th</sup>, a significant jump (30%) from the week prior, and a continuation of the upward trend since mid-June (Table 1). Accounting for both PUA and regular UI, almost one-third (32%) of the entire labor market in California has now filed for Unemployment Insurance benefits. This number counts the number of *unique* individuals that filed an initial claim since the start of the crisis on March 15<sup>th</sup>. In contrast, a simple summation of all weekly initial claims would double-count many individuals—e.g., any claimant that filed at least one additional claim, or the majority of PUA claimants (since most PUA claimants must prove ineligibility for regular UI by filing a regular UI claim before their separate PUA claim can be accepted). In fact, counting cumulated initial claims overestimates the “share of the labor force” filing a claim by a full 10 percentage points.<sup>3</sup> Table 11 compares the number of cumulated initial claims during the crisis with the number of unique claimants over the same period.

Figure 1 illustrates that both the number and share of additional claims has been rising since the middle of May – this increase is in some ways mechanical, as the number of regular initial claims rose over 10-fold in March-April, thus increasing the pool of claimants with the potential of later filing an additional claim. After adjusting for these additional claimants, we see that the number of regular UI claims has held remarkably steady since the end of May. However, the level at which this plateau is occurring is distressing when put in the context of history: the number of new initial claims has held firm at the same level seen in the single worst week of the Great Recession (the week ending January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010), when California recorded 115,000 initial regular UI claims.

To better understand the origins of the rise in additional claims, we analyzed the share of claims that are additional by industry and demographic groups. Because PUA claims do not contain all of the relevant information, we exclude PUA claims from this analysis. Statewide, the share of non-PUA claims that are additional is 57% (including PUA claims, 39% are additional, implying that very few PUA claims are also additional). Table 2 presents breakdowns of additional claims by industry. The industry with the highest share of additional claims is Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation – in which 77% of new UI claims come from workers who are re-

opening previous, unexpired UI claims. Other industries with high shares of additional claims include Accommodation and Food Services and Retail Trade. Conversely, in industries such as Education Services and Finance and Insurance, the majority of new initial claims originated from workers who did not have a recent spell of unemployment. Figure 2 shows how these industry-level patterns have changed since the pandemic. For instance, despite having among the highest rates of additional claims during July, workers in the Retail Trade industry were the least likely to file additional claims in February. Table 3 analyzes additional claims by demographics. We find that additional claims are slightly more common among women and workers of age 20-24. We find no notable differences by education level, but we do find that initial claims from Black workers are substantially less likely to be re-opened claims.

Since initial UI claims began to grow quickly starting the week beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, we treat that date as a benchmark for the start of the COVID-19 related crisis in the labor market. We treat claims and employment in February as the pre-crisis benchmark that is not yet affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

## Claims Are Again Becoming More Concentrated Among Younger, Lower-Educated, Asian, and Black Workers

The COVID-19 crisis in the labor market continues to have a disproportionate impact on women, younger workers, lower-educated workers, Hispanic workers, and Black workers. This summary updates a more in-depth discussion from our [report](#) released on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The share of initial claims filed by women rose to 54.5% in the week ending July 18<sup>th</sup>, despite only making up 45% of the labor force (Table 4).<sup>4</sup>

By July 25<sup>th</sup>, almost 50% of women in the labor force have filed initial UI claims since the start of the crisis in mid-March, compared to 39% of men (Table 9, which includes PUA claimants)<sup>5</sup>. The share of new claims filed by younger workers also continued to rise in recent weeks, with over 2/3 of 20-24 year-olds in the labor force filing for benefits since mid-March (Table 9). Figure 3 breaks the data out by birth cohorts. Over the last eight weeks, the share of initial claims from the youngest generation, Gen Z (16-23 year olds) has steadily risen, while the share of claims from Gen X and Baby Boomers has declined.

The share of initial claims by education level of workers is again diverging (Figure 4), with an increasing share of initial claimants who have a high school degree or less in recent weeks. Over the last three weeks, we see this group made up more than 43% of

initial claims (including additional), while making up just 33% of the labor force (Table 5). More than 45% of workers with a high school degree or less filed for regular UI benefits (not including PUA), compared to just 10% of those with a Bachelor's degree or more (Table 5). Finally, the share of Black claimants continues a slow but steady increase, while the share of Asian claimants, still slightly above its pre-crisis level, is declining (Figure 5). The share of Hispanic and White claimants has remained steady in recent weeks. Including PUA claimants, over 45% of Black workers and 31% of Asian workers have filed for UI benefits since the beginning of the crisis (Table 11).

## About 75% of New Initial Claims Were Found to be Eligible for Their First Benefit Payment

An important question is whether and which UI claimants are ultimately paid benefits, and how long they have to wait for them after filing a claim. We focus on the status of the first payment of new initial UI claims filed since the start of the COVID-19 crisis in the labor market on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We find that among the 6,091,333 million initial UI claims filed since March 15<sup>th</sup> (the start of the COVID-19 crisis), 4.7 million have received at least one payment. Among claims filed between March 15<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>, and hence most of which have been processed, 69% have received at least one payment (Table 1 and Column 4 of Table 8). These claimants had their initial claims approved, subsequently certified that she or he was still unemployed, and received benefits.

However, not all of these 6 million claims were eligible to be paid – recently filed claims may still be processing, and some claims may be denied payment. In order to better approximate the group of claims that could have been paid, we define a claim as ‘potentially eligible’ for a benefit payment if it either was paid or would have been paid if not for excess earnings in the relevant week. Among claims filed between March 15<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>, 4.6 million initial UI claims fit our definition of potentially eligible (Table 8).<sup>6</sup> Seventy-six percent of claims filed between March 15<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> have been found to be potentially eligible.

Claimants that were ineligible for their first payment may be eligible in subsequent weeks. It is difficult to assess the status of more recently-filed claims (i.e., claims filed after July 11<sup>th</sup>) because of normal time lags in processing of first payments. We found that, for the median claimant, just under two weeks passed between claim filing and the date when the first payment was certified, which usually means a payment was processed. This was relatively unchanged throughout the crisis. It is important to note that we only observe time to first payment information for claims we

labeled as potentially eligible.

When looking at demographic characteristics (Table 8), we find that the fraction of claims potentially eligible for first payments is high among all groups, but that Black workers, younger workers, and older workers had the lowest rates of potential eligibility. Moving to percent of claims paid, the average is 69%, with claims from Black workers (67%) and from middle-aged workers (67%) on the lower end, and workers aged 20-24 (75%) at the higher end. The data we analyzed does not explain the reasons for lack of eligibility beyond initial denial which can be either due to issues pertaining to program rules or because the claimant did not certify after being found eligible.

## About 18% of the Labor Force in California is Potentially Eligible to Receive UI Benefits

In this section, we report original estimates of the total number of individuals eligible to receive benefits in a given week. The number we produce represents individuals, not claims, and hence is more directly comparable to the number of unemployed individuals or the number of workers in the labor force reported from Current Population Survey data than existing UI statistics. Published UI statistics typically show the total number of UI payments that were “certified” in a given week, not the number of UI recipients who were actually unemployed in a given week. Since individuals can certify for payments for multiple weeks retroactively, both the level and the timing of this measure may not accurately reflect the number of individuals actually receiving benefits. Our measure sidesteps these problems by focusing directly on the number of individuals receiving UI benefits for any given week and hence provides a more accurate measure of UI benefit trends as they evolve. In addition, our approach allows examining how many individuals substantially benefit from the \$600/week FPUC benefit in the next section.

Once a UI claim is deemed eligible, the claimant must meet separate eligibility criteria in each week of unemployment to receive payment for that week. These weekly eligibility criteria are verified through a process known as certification. To receive benefits, in California claimants have to certify for benefits every other week. At each certification, a claimant informs the EDD that they met the relevant eligibility criteria in the two (or more) weeks that they are requesting payment for, including whether they had any earnings in the relevant week. Importantly, at the time of certification these weeks are *in the past*. This means that measures of UI receipt which count payment certifications in each week reflect unemployment experienced at least 1-2 weeks prior.

Since UI claimants in California typically certify for payments for two



weeks at a time, the total number of payment certifications per week should be approximately equal to one-half of the number of individuals receiving UI benefits. As discussed in more detail in our July 2<sup>nd</sup> report, this ratio may differ due to retroactive certifications, processing delays, and delays in workers' filings.

Instead of counting the number of payments by the week of their certification, we are instead counting the number of people that either receive UI benefits or are denied benefits because of excess earnings *for a given week of unemployment*. We call individuals that were either paid UI benefits in a given week, or who could have received benefits if not for excess earnings in that week “potentially eligible.” Figure 6 shows that the number of individuals potentially eligible for UI benefits for a given week of unemployment has evolved more gradually than payment certifications. There is evidence of an initial lag as unemployed individuals started to file for benefits and had their payments processed. Starting in early May, the number of UI recipients has been gradually declining, suggesting an improvement in labor market conditions. (We do not report results for weeks of unemployment after July 11<sup>th</sup>, since too few claims have been processed for meaningful analysis.) It also appears that processed payments in May and June are larger than the number of individuals receiving benefits, likely because individuals retroactively claimed benefit weeks.

The figure also shows the number of individuals certifying for benefits each week. This line is smaller than the number of individuals receiving benefits, since the bi-weekly pattern of certification implies only half of claimants have to certify each week.

Using our approach of counting individuals paid for a given week, we find that for the week ending on July 11<sup>th</sup> (the last week this can be measured in our data given typical processing lags), 3.5 million individuals were potentially eligible to receive UI benefits (Table 9). Among those potentially eligible, we find 5.3% of individuals were denied payments in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup> because of excess earnings (column 4 of Table 9). In that same week, 3.28 million individuals were paid UI benefits. Among these, we find that 10.6% had partial UI, i.e., their WBA was reduced because of positive earnings in the given week.<sup>7</sup>

In contrast to payments certified, the number of individuals being paid UI benefits can be directly compared to estimates of the number of individuals in the labor force or the number of individuals unemployed from the Current Population Survey (CPS). Among individuals in the California labor force in February, our pre-crisis benchmark, 17.6% were potentially eligible for UI benefits the week ending July 4<sup>th</sup>. Since some individuals dropped out of the labor force due to the COVID-19 crisis, the fraction relative to the labor force in June is greater at 18.3% (shown in Appendix Table 9B). If one uses

the number of individuals actually paid UI benefits in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, the fraction of the February labor force is 16.9% (and 17.3% of the June labor force). These numbers are discussed further in the context of appropriate benchmarks in the next section.

Table 9 also shows the same statistics for various demographic groups. The fraction of the labor force potentially eligible to receive UI benefits is substantially higher for groups that have been most affected by the crisis. For example, the fraction of potentially eligible workers in the February labor force has been above 20% for young workers, Black workers, and less educated workers. These fractions are lower than the cumulated fraction of workers filing for UI benefits since the start of the COVID-19 crisis among the labor force reported elsewhere in this report, since not all UI claimants are eligible, and some UI claimants have returned to work and are not counted as UI claimants in Table 9. We discuss how many unemployed people are likely to get UI benefits in California in the next section.

## A Large Fraction of Unemployed People Are Likely Eligible to Receive UI Benefits in California

A key question during the COVID-19 crisis in the labor market has been how the number of individuals receiving UI benefits compares to the number of people reporting themselves unemployed in the CPS (the data source of the official unemployment rate). This question is difficult to answer with commonly available measures of UI receipt, since those measures count the number of payments by certification dates, not the number of individuals when they are unemployed. We believe that our estimates of the number of individuals receiving UI benefits for a given week of unemployment are better suited to answering this question. Using these estimates, we find that the number of individuals being paid their full UI benefits (i.e., that do not have any partial employment) is somewhat smaller than the number reporting themselves unemployed in the CPS, suggesting almost all unemployed receive UI benefits. However, a more appropriate benchmark is a measure that also includes discouraged workers which is currently not published for the state of California.

The official unemployment rate is defined as the fraction of individuals in the labor force that report themselves out of work, and wanting and actively searching for a job. In June, there were 2.92 million such unemployed in California, leading to an unemployment rate of 15.9%.<sup>8</sup> The most comparable number is those UI recipients that do not work and hence received their full benefits, which from Table 9 are 2.93 million (88.4% of column 2), amounting to 15.5% of the June labor force (Appendix Table 9B). This suggests that a large

share of the unemployed may be receiving UI benefits. However, the official unemployment rate does not count individuals that want a job but are not looking for work. Since the typical requirement to look for a job is not being enforced in California during the COVID-19 crisis, such workers are likely receiving UI benefits. Moreover, as discussed in this report, many UI recipients have partial earnings while collecting partial unemployment benefits. Thus, our UI estimate of unemployment is likely to capture workers not included in the official unemployment definition.

A more comprehensive measure of unemployment that captures workers that want a job but are currently not actively searching for one, or workers working part-time but wanting full-time work — both groups likely to be among current UI recipients — stood at 18.3% at the federal level in June.<sup>9</sup> While this number was not reported at the state level, our own calculations based on June CPS numbers suggest it was closer to 23% in California. In contrast, the fraction of all UI beneficiaries paid (including those on partial UI) among the June labor force was 17.3% ([Appendix Table 9B](#)), suggesting that there is a share of underemployed workers not currently receiving UI benefits either because they have not applied or they are not eligible. Some UI claimants are also denied benefits due to excess earnings and if we include these claimants the fraction of the June labor force receiving UI payments rises to 18.3%.

In the final column of [Table 9](#), we directly show the ratio of the number of UI beneficiaries that do not work (and so do not have their benefits reduced) and the number of workers reporting themselves to be unemployed in the CPS. This ratio is often referred to as the reciprocity rate of UI benefits. Statewide, the reciprocity rate is just over 100%. This does not necessarily mean every single unemployed Californian received UI benefits, for the reasons just discussed. But the ratio is useful to contrast orders of magnitude of UI beneficiaries and unemployment for different groups. This ratio is higher for men, lower educated workers, and Black workers, and lower for women, Hispanic Workers, Asian Workers, and more educated workers.<sup>10</sup> The reciprocity rates would be higher if we included workers with partial UI benefits as well, especially for Hispanic workers, White workers, and more educated workers that have higher rate of partial UI benefits. For example, when including workers with partial UI, estimates of the reciprocity rate rises from 88% to 101% for Hispanic Workers and 99% to 110% for White Workers.

Overall, past experience suggests that it is unlikely that the CPS captures all those not employed because of COVID-19, and also unlikely that all those unemployed due to COVID-19 are receiving UI benefits. However, our numbers suggest that a substantial fraction of underemployed individuals in California are currently receiving UI benefits.

## About Half of UI Recipients in California Were Lifted Above FPL by \$600/week FPUC Payments

Our estimate of the number of individuals currently receiving UI benefits allows us to infer how many individuals were receiving the \$600/week payment from FPUC, how much total federal funding from FPUC California received, and which individuals will be most affected if FPUC benefits are not continued by Congress. Since each UI beneficiary received the \$600/week payment, in the calendar week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, 3.28 million claimants benefitted from the program. This means that from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup>, over \$1.97 billion in FPUC payments were paid out to California claimants in addition to their regular UI benefits. From the start of the crisis to July 11<sup>th</sup>, California claimants have received over \$35 billion in FPUC payments.

We find that if FPUC benefits are not continued at the \$600 amount, a large number of UI claimants would receive benefits below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and an even larger number would be considered “very poor” by standards of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We calculated the fraction of claimants receiving benefits during the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup> whose weekly benefit amount (WBA) would be lower than the implied weekly FPL (obtained by dividing the annual FPL for a single individual by the number of weeks in a year) without the \$600/week FPUC benefit. Statewide, 51% of individuals would receive a WBA that falls below the FPL ([Appendix Table 9B](#)). Since we do not know the family income of UI claimants, our data does not allow us to tell whether these individuals’ income would actually fall below the FPL. However, as we discuss later in the report, given the high cost of living in California, this indicates that a large number of individuals would likely be at risk of poverty absent FPUC benefits.

Looking at demographic groups, we see that the beneficial effect is particularly large for younger workers (only 30.8% of workers aged 20-24 would receive a WBA above the FPL absent FPUC benefits), female workers, and Black workers. We discuss differences in WBA and how they compare with different benchmarks of poverty later in the report.

## A Steady Fraction of Regular UI Claims are Either Not Paid Because of Excess Earnings or Their Benefits are Reduced, Reflecting Improving Economic Conditions

We find that a substantial number of UI claimants had either their benefits denied or had reduced UI benefits because of concurrent earnings in a given week. The share of such claimants has slowed in its upward trend since early May. Workers are allowed to earn wages while receiving UI benefits up to a threshold. For claimants whose Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) is below the maximum of \$450, the threshold is typically two-thirds of prior average weekly earnings.<sup>11</sup> If earnings are above that threshold, UI benefits are denied for that week.

If reported earnings are below that threshold but above zero, an individual receives a reduced UI payment for that week. This system is often referred to as “partial UI.”<sup>12</sup> Since partial UI benefits are determined at the payment level, a partial UI claimant may later receive higher UI payments (up to their full WBA) if their earnings decrease in subsequent weeks. Similarly, a claimant whose payment is denied in a given week due to excessive earnings can later receive partial UI or full benefits if their earnings decrease in subsequent weeks.

Among the total number of potentially eligible claimants in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, about 5.3% had their benefit payment denied because of excess earnings if we include PUA claimants (Table 9). It is 6% if we exclude PUA claimants, since these claimants are less likely to report positive earnings (Figure 7). This share had been increasing in early May since bottoming out at about 3% in late April, but the trend has flattened significantly in recent weeks. However, it is still above the approximately 7% seen before the start of the crisis.

An important question is how many claimants that were actually paid UI benefits received partial UI. We found that among claimants receiving benefits in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup>, the fraction receiving partial UI was 10.6% when we include PUA claimants (Table 9) or 13% when we exclude them (Figure 7). This has been consistently increasing since late April, indicating that a larger share of impacted workers are seeing at least some employment opportunities. The fraction receiving partial UI rose briefly above 14% at the beginning of the crisis, compared to 6% in February (Figure 7). This suggests that initially employers may have thought the crisis was temporary and kept a larger group of workers on part-time. The fraction then fell to just above 5% by the end of April as employers engaged in layoffs instead of reducing hours, before beginning its recent ascent.

To better understand how partial UI and denials due to excess earnings have been influenced by the recent path of the pandemic,

Figure 8 plots these measures by industry. Since May, partial UI has trended upward as a share of all claims, with the longest sustained upward trends coming from Retail Trade and Accommodation and Food Services. Whereas initially these industries had also been experiencing a growth in denials due to excess earnings, their positive trends in denials reversed course in mid-to-late June. As re-opening efforts are scaled back, this drop in denials due to excess earnings along with a sustained rise in partial UI may again be consistent with employers reducing hours rather than laying off workers in order to accommodate the uncertainty of the stalled re-opening. It will be important to monitor how this share evolves going forward, given the upturn in COVID-19 cases and the recently re-imposed restrictions on businesses in counties around the state.

Overall, a total of 528,908 claimants either had their benefits denied or reduced because of earnings in a given week (5.3% times column 1 plus 10.6% times column 2 of Table 9). Hence, one in seven claimants (15.3%) had their benefits reduced or denied because they worked in that week. This amounted to about 2.8% relative to the labor force in June. This means that a potentially large number of workers with some employment are still attached to the UI system. This has two important implications. First, as further discussed below, some of these workers would benefit from increases in the earnings disregard for partial UI benefits or from wider use of the Work Sharing program. Second, some of these workers may report that they are unemployed in survey data because they are receiving UI benefits, potentially making CPS based unemployment measures harder to interpret.

In our prior reports, we analyzed the incidence of denied or reduced benefits because of concurrent earnings for those initial claims that certified for their first benefits. These numbers for initial claims filed during the weeks from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup> are shown in Table 8. With respect to all continuing claims, first benefit claims see a lower share of partial UI (9.7%) and a higher share of benefits denied because of excess earnings (11.5%). The larger share of partial UI suggests that over time, a rising share of claimants are finding some work. The higher fraction of denials indicates a larger share among initial claims may be returning to the labor force than among continuing claimants, consistent with the well-known finding that the chance of reemployment tends to decline with unemployment duration. We also extended the analysis to demographic groups. Table 8 shows breakdowns of partial UI and denials due to excess earnings by gender, age, race, and education.

For UI claimants with low prior earnings, the availability of part-time employment at reduced hours creates a choice between uncertain employment with low earnings and more certain UI benefits that reduce the risk of poverty. The additional \$600

weekly FPUC payment, if it is continued by Congress, makes this decision especially stark. For example, the median claimant in the week ending July 11<sup>th</sup> had a WBA of \$314, implying prior average weekly earnings of \$628. If they earn more than two-thirds of their prior income (\$418 per week), they are denied both UI benefits and the \$600 FPUC payment. If, for example, they instead earned 50% of that amount (\$314 per week), they would receive \$78 in partial UI benefits, plus \$600, for a total of \$678 in UI benefits, in addition to the \$314 from working (\$992 total).

These findings suggest that it is worth considering programs that allow a greater number of claimants to keep a larger share of their benefits as they return to work on a part-time basis. One such program is Work Sharing. Work sharing programs allow firms and employees to spread some of the burden of decreased work by reducing hours for a group of employees and replacing a portion of their lost pay with UI benefits, thus avoiding layoffs. During the COVID-19 crisis, Work Sharing programs can also be used to rehire laid off workers at less than full-time hours. Eligible workers receive a prorated WBA. If, for example, their hours were reduced by 50% they would receive 50% of the WBA they would be eligible for in the event of a layoff. Importantly, Work Sharing participants were eligible for the \$600 per week FPUC benefit (and would be if it is extended). Relative to partial UI, an advantage of Work Sharing is that workers can earn up to 90% of their prior earnings and still receive both pro-rated UI benefits and the \$600 FPUC payment. This is in contrast to only 66% of prior earnings under partial UI.<sup>13</sup> The last section of our [June report](#) discussed a concrete example of how low-wage workers could benefit from Work Sharing in this context.

## Rising Impact of Crisis on Female and Younger Higher Educated Workers

We see that the education distribution of initial UI claims has shifted substantially throughout crisis. In particular, while the share of initial claims by workers with at most a high school degree rose dramatically at the beginning of the crisis, since then, their share of claims, along with the share of claims by workers in the other two education groups, have returned to and remained at pre-crisis levels. We analyzed the demographic patterns of new initial claims within these three major education groups in [Table 10](#) and [Figure 9](#). Given the wealth of data, we only point to a selected set of results here.

We find that within each major education group, initial claims by the youngest workers (Generation Z, age 16-23) have been largest relative to the size of their labor force, while also steadily rising throughout the crisis. In contrast, claims by Millennials (age 24-38)

experienced a large temporary jump in mid-March among all education groups, with only small changes since.<sup>14</sup> Focusing on workers with some college, almost one in three workers from Generation Z with some college claimed UI, in contrast to less than one in four older workers ([Table 10](#)). Similarly, among individuals that graduated with a bachelor's degree or more, one in five workers from Generation Z claimed UI, in contrast to less than one in ten among more mature workers (e.g., Generation X and Baby Boomers, ages 40 and up).

Among workers with at most a high school degree, a substantially higher share of women as a fraction of the labor force have filed for benefits than men ([Table 8](#)). Women are the majority among higher-educated claimants, but the difference in shares of the respective labor force is smaller. Similarly, the differences in rates of UI claiming by race and ethnicity tend to be smaller for workers with some college, and even smaller for workers with a bachelor's degree or more.

In [Figure 9](#), we plot the share of claims among the most-represented industries by major education groups. One striking change since our previous report is the reversal in the previously rising share of claims from the Education Services Industry among those with a bachelor's degree or more, falling from a peak of 18% of claims in that group to about 14%. Claims from the retail trade industry seem to have ticked upwards in the last week across all education groups, while accommodation and food services has instead ticked down. Other industries have remained steady as a share of claims within education groups during recent weeks. As the nature of the pandemic, and the associated economic policy response evolves, it will be important to monitor how various industries and the type of workers filing initial UI claims within these industries fare.

## Claimants for PUA Reflect Characteristics of State's Self-Employed Workers

We found that over 95% of PUA claims were from previously self-employed individuals, with the remainder from individuals that had not qualified for regular UI for other reasons. Since there were approximately 2.2 million self-employed individuals in CA, these numbers suggest that approximately 60% of these individuals claimed PUA benefits.<sup>15</sup>

When analyzing the characteristics of PUA claimants, we found that compared to regular UI claimants they are more likely to be older, more likely to be White or Asian, and less likely to be Black or Hispanic ([Table 11](#)).<sup>16</sup> Not surprisingly, the characteristics of UI claimants partly reflects the demographic structure of self-employed workers in California.<sup>17</sup> We currently do not have access to



information about the education levels of self-employed claimants.

Initially, the Employment Development Department pays every PUA claimant that is found eligible a weekly benefit amount of \$167, plus \$600 in weekly benefits from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation from March 29th to July 25th, 2020. Over time, claimants that are eligible for higher benefits have to apply to have their benefits reconciled.<sup>18</sup> For this reason, we exclude PUA claimants from calculations of median weekly benefit amounts and median replacement rates in the following two sections.

## Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Helps UI Claimants Avoid Near-Poverty Benefit Levels

Analysis of weekly benefit amounts (WBA) from regular UI benefits of initial claimants during the Covid-19 crisis shows many claimants are at risk of having very low income levels during unemployment. In California, a claimant found to be eligible is paid 50% of average weekly earnings in a base period in benefits, up to a maximum of \$450 per week.<sup>19</sup> For all initial claimants between June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> projected to qualify for regular UI benefits, the median WBA was \$314 per week (Table 12).<sup>20</sup>

For time in unemployment covered by UI from March 29<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>, all claimants were eligible to receive an additional \$600 per week from Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).<sup>21</sup> FPUC benefits made a substantial difference for UI claimants in CA. For example, \$914 per week (\$314 + \$600) puts the median claimant at about 55% of median family income (MFI), and above the HUD threshold for “very low-income” (50% MFI). The claimant would still be deemed “low-income” (below 80% MFI) in the absence of other income sources in the household (Figure 10).<sup>22</sup>

As Congress debates how to structure a relief package after the expiration of FPUC benefits, our data can provide key insights into how various proposals may affect UI claimants in California. The HEROES Act, proposed in May, would continue FPUC benefits at their \$600 level until January 2021, while the HEALS Act would replace the \$600 payments with a \$200 payment through September, followed by a payment of up to 70 percent of worker’s lost wages. For the median claimant, the \$200 additional payment implies total weekly benefits of \$514, equivalent to about 31% of MFI, and thus still considered “very low income.” Since the median WBA for initial claimants in CA is \$314, and WBA’s are generally about one-half of prior weekly earnings during the base period, the 70% replacement rate in the second stage of the HEALS Act would provide the typical (median) claimant with a weekly benefit of \$440 (70% of \$628). Such a framework would

thus push the benefit levels of at least half of UI claimants in California below the very low-income threshold. Furthermore, adjustments to benefit calculation formulas have the potential to exacerbate processing delays for claimants, given the aging computing infrastructure the Unemployment Insurance system operates on.<sup>23</sup>

For regular UI claimants, WBA’s depend on prior earnings and hence partly reflect differences in wage levels in the California labor market. Table 12 shows that the median WBA was lower for women, less educated claimants, younger claimants, and non-White claimants even before the COVID-19 crisis.

Unsurprisingly, since the crisis has substantially increased the number of claimants that were women, younger, and lower-educated, we see that the statewide median WBA declined in the course of the crisis from \$418 in February to \$314 for the two weeks from June 27<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup> (Figure 10, Table 12). Yet, Table 12 shows that median WBAs have declined even within groups, indicating that in each demographic group lower-earning workers were disproportionately affected.

Similarly, median WBAs for initial claimants differed substantially across industries prior to the crisis, reflecting differences in wage levels (Table 15). While higher-earning industries have seen median WBAs stay steady at or near the \$450 maximum throughout the crisis (i.e., Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Construction, and the Information industry), lower-earnings industries who are not affected by the maximum threshold have seen their median WBAs vary with time, indicating a changing composition of workers filing claims within the industry. For example, the median WBA for an initial claimant from the Accommodation and Food Services industry jumped from \$282 in February up to \$373 in early March, but is back down to \$237 in the last two weeks. This suggests most-recent claimants are lower-wage workers than the earlier claimants in this industry.

Comparing the WBAs of recent claimants with the WBAs of all those filing since the crisis began, we see that even when looking within industries, recent filers have lower earnings histories than claimants who filed earlier in the crisis. The low WBA for recent claimants in hard-hit industries makes the impact of FPUC benefits especially salient: for a recent claimant from the Retail Trade industry, FPUC lifts weekly benefits from just \$223 per week to \$823 per week.

To put these benefit amounts into perspective, one can compare the benefit amounts to commonly used measures of poverty. Based on our data, we cannot tell whether an individual or a family would actually qualify as poor by these definitions, since we do not observe other sources of income. While a WBA of \$314 (the

statewide median in the last two weeks) would put a single individual above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for the given week (FPL averages to about \$245 per week for a single individual), it is below 30% of MFI in California, and hence would be considered “Extremely Low Income” by the standards of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). For a two-person household with a single earner, \$314 is below the Federal Poverty Level for the given week. Close to 80% of low income workers in California spend more than 50% of their income on rent, and would not be able to afford rent based on regular UI benefits for a single earner alone.<sup>24</sup> While in most countries UI benefits are a limited share of earnings by design, in this crisis more low-wage workers are claiming benefits compared to past recessions, highlighting potential implications of low benefit levels as further discussed below.

## Average Benefit Replacement Rates for Regular UI Claimants Fall to Just 44% without FPUC Payments

The data allows us to calculate the fraction of a claimant’s earnings that is replaced by UI benefits, which is commonly referred to as the benefit replacement rate. We define the replacement rate to be the ratio of the weekly benefit amount to average weekly earnings in the highest paid quarter of the base period.<sup>25</sup>

The replacement rate is often used to measure the generosity of UI benefits. Before the COVID-19 crisis in the labor market, the average replacement rate of initial UI claimants projected to be eligible for UI benefits in California was 41% (Table 13). This is as expected, since UI benefits are rarely more than 50% of prior earnings and are capped at \$450 per week. As a result, the median replacement rate is 50% for most groups, but less for higher-earning claimants, since the cap implies that a smaller share of higher incomes is replaced by UI benefits (Tables 13 and 16). During the crisis, the average replacement from regular UI benefits (not counting FPUC benefits) rose to 44% as more low-income workers filed for benefits and fewer workers qualified for the maximum benefit amount, and has remained around that same level since (Figure 11).

For weeks of UI-covered unemployment starting on March 29<sup>th</sup>, claimants became eligible to receive an additional \$600 a week from FPUC. For the average claimant over the last two weeks, this implies a rise of the replacement rate to 162% of mean weekly earnings. The implied *median* replacement rate with FPUC was lower at 137%, pointing to the fact that many lower-earning workers had substantially higher replacement rates.

Looking across demographic and industry groups (Tables 13 and

16), it is clear that claimants with typically lower wages also had higher replacement rates before the crisis. During the crisis, the statewide replacement rate from regular UI benefits increased, partly because applications from lower-earning groups of workers – such as high-school graduates – increased, and partly because the average earnings of workers within several demographic and industry groups fell as well, resulting in increases in the replacement rates for those groups. FPUC benefits helped to substantially increase replacement rates especially among women, Black workers, younger claimants, and lower-educated claimants, and in some lower-earnings industries. For example, for workers in the Accommodation and Food Industry and Retail Trade, the median replacement rate was 162% and 175% in the two-week period ending on July 25<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

Our discussion of WBA in the previous section makes clear that these increases are not surprising given the low pre-crisis earnings of these workers in California, and reflect the role of FPUC benefits in alleviating the poverty risk of workers affected by the COVID-19 crisis in the labor market. For example, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that annual mean earnings for workers in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations was \$30,720 in 2019, implying average weekly earnings of only \$614 for 50 working weeks (and a median close to \$500).<sup>26</sup> The corresponding values for Sales and Related Occupations are mean annual earnings of \$46,660, with implied mean weekly earnings of \$933, and median weekly earnings close to \$600. The values of the replacement rate reflect very low underlying earnings of many of the workers affected by the current crisis in the labor market in California.

## About 61% of New Initial Claimants Expect to be Recalled to Their Employer

Upon filing an initial UI claim, individuals are asked to report whether they expect to return to their prior job, i.e., to be “recalled.” Around 61 percent of all new initial UI claimants during the two weeks from July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup> reported that they expect to be recalled (Figure 12, Table 12). While recent recall rates are lower than the 80% seen at the peak of the crisis, they are still significantly higher than the 29% average during February, and appear to be holding firm. Furthermore, the fraction of workers expecting to be recalled was still substantially above the February average even when looking within various demographic groups filing an initial claim (Table 12).

The numbers we report here reflect recall expectations of only new initial claims, excluding additional claims. When a new claim is re-opened as an additional claim, the recall data that we observe corresponds to the earlier new claim. Figure 12 contrasts how

recall expectations have changed over time for non-additional initial claims, which is our preferred measure, and for all initial claims, which is the measure we have reported in previous reports. That recall expectations since May have been higher when additional claims are included is consistent with the fact that recall expectations were high early on in the pandemic, when the original claims corresponding to recent additional claims was filed. In February, a higher share of male workers, older workers, Hispanic, and lower-educated workers reported that they expected to be recalled. When considering all new claimants since the onset of the crisis, we see that similar patterns hold – though the gap in expectations between Hispanic claimants and others shrunk considerably (as other races increased their recall expectations more dramatically). Looking at claimants who filed their claim during the two weeks from July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>, we see that all demographic groups have seen declining recall expectations. Interesting, the gap in recall expectations between Black claimants and others (7 percentage points when considering all new claimants since March 15<sup>th</sup>) has shrunk, with the recall expectations of recent Black claimants now just 4 percentage points below the state average. (Table 12).

We also analyzed the percent of new claimants reporting they expect to be recalled by major industry (Table 15). Before the crisis the incidence of self-reported recall expectations varied from low rates of 5.9% in Finance and Insurance and 3.1% in Management, to high rates in Construction of 44.9% and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting of 80.8%, with an average rate of 61% across major industries. In the two weeks from July 12<sup>th</sup> to July 25<sup>th</sup>, there were substantial differences in recall rates between industries, with rates as low as 52% in Finance and Insurance, but still as high as 70% in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, one of the hardest-hit sectors in the crisis.

Although recall information is self-reported by the claimant and may change in the course of the unemployment spell, this does suggest some reason for optimism about the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis. While still costly both for the workers themselves and for the economy as a whole, temporary job separations in which the worker eventually returns to the same employer are likely to be much less costly than permanent separations. For these reasons, it will be important to monitor the evolution of recall expectations among initial UI claimants throughout the course of the crisis, and find ways to support a speedy return of workers to their previous employers.

## Customer-Facing Service Industries Saw the Largest Increases in Claims

To assess the impact of COVID-19 on different industries in California we categorized claimants by the major NAICS code associated with the primary employer in their base period.<sup>27</sup> Recent initial claims have continued to be concentrated in a few top industries.

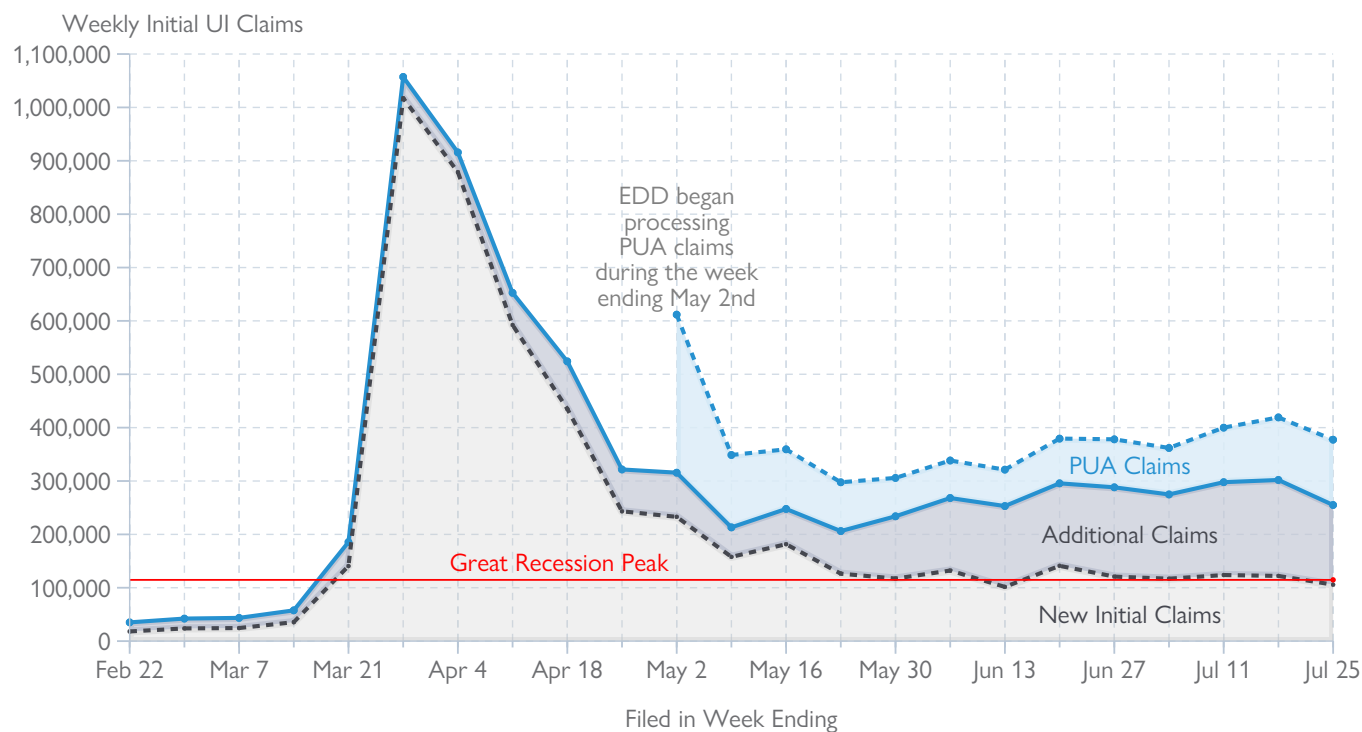
The trends in the share of claims from top industries is illustrated in Figure 12, while Table 14 allows us to analyze the share of the labor force in various industries which has been affected. We see that 59% of the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry workforce has filed at least one UI claim since March 15<sup>th</sup>, along with 15.4% of the education services workforce. Accommodation and Food Services has seen the largest number of unique claimants, with nearly 760,000 unique individuals filing claims since the start of the crisis. Retail Trade and the Health Care and Social Assistance industries have each accounted for over half a million unique claimants.

## Increases in UI Claims More Pronounced in Urban Counties

We also analyzed whether the COVID-19 crisis had disparate impacts across the state. Among the most populous counties (Table 17), Los Angeles County continued to account for the largest share of claims, with just under one-third of all claims filed in the State in the past three weeks.<sup>28</sup> Riverside and San Bernardino were also impacted in the past three weeks, with initial claims (including additional) summing to over 5.3% of each county's labor force, compared to 4.5% in Los Angeles and San Diego.

Similar to before, we can count the number of unique claimants since the beginning of the crisis in each county. We find that Los Angeles, Riverside, San Joaquin, and San Bernardino counties were hit especially hard, with over 35% of their labor force filing at least one UI claim. Los Angeles County alone has had 1.85 million unique claimants since March 15<sup>th</sup>. Because not all unemployed workers file for UI, the actual number of people who are unemployed could be larger.

FIGURE 1: Weekly Initial UI Claims (including PUA) During the COVID-19 Crisis in California, 2/22/2020–7/25/2020



X-axis labels correspond to Saturdays.

The bottom shaded region represents new initial claims, the dark gray region above it represents additional claims, and the light blue region represents new PUA claims. The three areas add up to total initial claims (regular UI and PUA).

Additional Claims include claimants for both regular UI and PUA who have already filed an original claim during the same benefit year, had a break of one or more weeks of benefits with intervening employment, and have re-opened their UI claim. We also include Transitional Claims with the Additional Claims region.

Transitional Claims are claims where a claimant is still collecting benefits at the end of their benefit year and had sufficient wage earnings during that year to start up a new claim once the first benefit year ends. Transitional Claims make up less than 0.5% of Total Claims since March 15th.

California reported 114,793 initial UI claims (including additional claims) in the week ending January 9, 2010. (OUI DOLETA Table 539)



TABLE 1: Weekly Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis in California, 3/07/2020–7/25/2020

WEEK ENDING	TOTAL INITIAL CLAIMS	PUA CLAIMS	FRACTION OF PUA CLAIMS AMONG TOTAL CLAIMS	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS (SINCE START OF CRISIS)	CUMULATED UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	CUMULATED UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS PERCENT OF FEB LABOR FORCE
Mar 07	43,605	—	—	—	—	—
Mar 14	57,704	—	—	—	—	—
Mar 21	185,545	—	—	183,096	183,096	0.9
Mar 28	1,057,167	—	—	1,051,857	1,234,953	6.4
Apr 04	915,815	—	—	893,285	2,128,238	11.0
Apr 11	652,886	—	—	597,492	2,725,730	14.0
Apr 18	524,958	—	—	443,993	3,169,723	16.3
Apr 25	322,599	—	—	249,484	3,419,207	17.6
May 02	611,812	297,869	49%	360,800	3,780,007	19.5
May 09	348,842	137,831	40%	232,288	4,012,295	20.7
May 16	359,468	116,120	32%	245,110	4,257,405	21.9
May 23	297,680	96,289	32%	188,198	4,445,603	22.9
May 30	305,799	77,537	25%	170,954	4,616,557	23.8
June 06	338,410	76,310	23%	189,430	4,805,987	24.7
June 13	321,367	74,677	23%	159,990	4,965,977	25.6
June 20	379,480	90,391	24%	212,824	5,178,801	26.7
June 27	378,105	97,635	26%	199,937	5,378,738	27.7
July 04	361,965	94,325	26%	191,503	5,570,241	28.7
July 11	400,042	111,002	28%	213,479	5,783,720	29.8
July 18	419,222	126,515	30%	228,179	6,011,899	30.9
July 25	377,405	130,323	35%	217,770	6,229,669	32.1

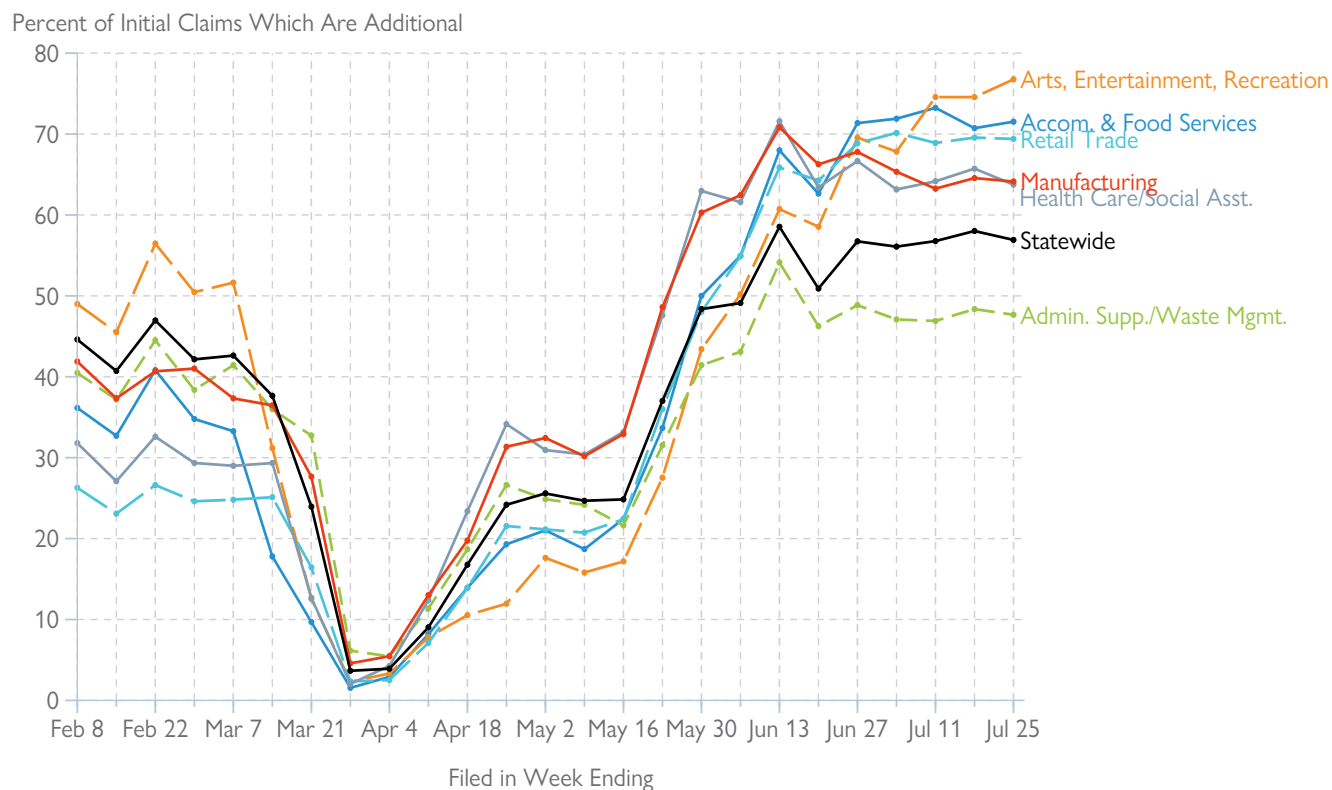
Notes: Total initial claims refers to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance among California Residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Initial Claims in a given week may be greater than the number of new unique claimants, as individuals may appear twice in the initial claims numbers - e.g., any claimant that filed at least one additional claim, or the majority of PUA claimants (since most PUA claimants must prove ineligibility for regular UI by filing a regular UI claim before their separate PUA claim can be accepted).

TABLE 2: New Initial Claims and Additional Claims Filed in the Week Ending July 25th, by Industry

MAJOR INDUSTRY (2 DIGIT NAICS)	NEW INITIAL CLAIMS	ADDITIONAL CLAIMS	INDUSTRY SHARE OF NEW INITIAL CLAIMS	INDUSTRY SHARE OF ADDITIONAL CLAIMS	ADDITIONAL REGULAR (NON-PUA) CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF REGULAR INITIAL CLAIMS FROM THAT ROW
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	2,129	7,050	2.7	5.2	76.8
<b>Other Services</b>	2,643	8,016	3.4	6.0	75.2
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	9,605	24,153	12.3	18.0	71.5
<b>Retail Trade</b>	9,698	21,990	12.4	16.4	69.4
<b>Information</b>	2,034	3,953	2.6	2.9	66.0
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	2,393	4,622	3.1	3.4	65.9
<b>Management</b>	344	619	0.4	0.5	64.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	4,936	8,825	6.3	6.6	64.1
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	10,973	19,326	14.0	14.4	63.8
<b>Mining, Oil and Gas</b>	96	166	0.1	0.1	63.4
<b>Construction</b>	4,535	7,580	5.8	5.6	62.5
<b>Real Estate and Leasing</b>	1,215	1,771	1.6	1.3	59.3
<b>Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services (a)</b>	4,316	5,751	5.5	4.3	57.1
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	3,883	4,662	5.0	3.5	54.6
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (a)</b>	2,135	1,973	2.7	1.5	48.0
<b>Admin. Support, Waste Man. (a)</b>	9,247	8,441	11.8	6.3	47.7
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	1,231	1,076	1.6	0.8	46.6
<b>Education Services</b>	6,847	4,509	8.7	3.4	39.7

**Notes:** PUA claimants do not report industry, thus they are excluded from this table. Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Additional claims are claims where an initial claim has already been opened, the claimant has missed at least one week of certification with intervening employment, then re-opened the claim before the benefit year has expired. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Industry of main employer prior to layoff was obtained from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages according to North American Industrial Classification Systems (Naics, see [https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm)). Column Total excludes NAICS Code 92 (Public Admin), Unclassified NAICS codes, and those with unreported NAICS codes.

FIGURE 2: Share of Initial UI Claims Which are Additional by Select Industries During the COVID-19 Crisis in California, 2/22/2020 - 7/25/2020



X-axis labels correspond to Saturdays. This figure does not include PUA claims. Only select industries are shown. Additional claims are claims where an initial claim has already been opened, the claimant has missed at least one week of certification with intervening employment, then re-opened the claim before the benefit year has expired. Transitional claims are excluded from this calculation.

TABLE 3 : New Initial Claims and Additional Claims Filed in the Week Ending July 25th, by Demographic Group

GROUP	NEW INITIAL CLAIMS	ADDITIONAL CLAIMS	GROUP'S SHARE OF NEW INITIAL CLAIMS	GROUP'S SHARE OF ADDITIONAL CLAIMS	ADDITIONAL CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF ALL INITIAL CLAIMS FROM THAT ROW (INCLUDING PUA)	ADDITIONAL REGULAR (NON-PUA) CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF REGULAR INITIAL CLAIMS FROM THAT ROW
<b>Statewide</b>	228,154	147,917	100.0	100.0	39.2	56.9
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	106,573	83,246	46.8	56.3	43.7	59.9
<b>Male</b>	121,256	64,599	53.2	43.7	34.6	53.6
<b>By Age Group</b>						
<b>16–19</b>	12,126	5,756	5.4	3.9	32.2	47.5
<b>20–24</b>	27,425	24,481	12.3	16.6	47.1	57.8
<b>25–34</b>	56,052	41,677	25.1	28.2	42.5	57.7
<b>35–44</b>	44,169	27,067	19.8	18.3	37.9	57.2
<b>45–54</b>	37,430	23,873	16.7	16.1	38.8	58.6
<b>55–64</b>	30,554	19,488	13.7	13.2	38.7	58.6
<b>65–85</b>	15,739	5,508	7.0	3.7	25.8	47.2
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>						
<b>White</b>	67,197	44,948	37.3	33.7	39.9	58.8
<b>Black</b>	33,928	8,066	18.8	6.0	19.1	35.7
<b>Hispanic</b>	61,876	58,609	34.3	44.0	48.4	58.2
<b>Asian</b>	17,259	21,712	9.6	16.3	55.5	64.9
<b>By Education</b>						
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	22,950	73,656	53.0	54.5	-	76.4
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	13,364	39,772	30.9	29.4	-	75.0
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	6,961	21,655	16.1	16.0	-	75.7

Notes: PUA claimants do not report education levels. Additional claims are claims where an initial claim has already been opened, the claimant has missed at least one week of certification, then re-opened the claim before the benefit year has expired.



TABLE 4: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Gender

GENDER	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>Female</b>	154,076	159,430	132,262	2,464,441	8,824,000	27.9
<b>Male</b>	134,589	132,902	114,519	2,307,240	10,605,000	21.8
<b>Column Total</b>	288,665	292,332	246,781	4,771,681	19,429,000	24.6
<b>% Female</b>	53.4	54.5	53.6	51.6	45.4	—

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Does not include PUA claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Column Total excludes claimants not reporting Gender. Columns 1-3 count the total number of initial claims filed in that week, including additional claims. For a definition of unique claimants see the note to Table 1.

TABLE 5: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Age Group

AGE GROUP	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>16–19</b>	12,843	14,280	11,269	206,868	531,000	39.0
<b>20–24</b>	47,952	50,506	41,083	779,629	1,741,000	44.8
<b>25–34</b>	82,770	83,184	69,113	1,351,192	4,780,000	28.3
<b>35–44</b>	52,905	52,463	44,694	856,658	4,303,000	19.9
<b>45–54</b>	44,913	44,740	38,453	743,249	3,904,000	19.0
<b>55–64</b>	36,037	35,679	31,427	613,829	3,019,000	20.3
<b>65–85</b>	10,973	11,132	10,437	227,185	1,152,000	19.7
<b>Column Total</b>	288,393	291,984	246,476	4,778,610	19,430,000	24.6

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Does not include PUA claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Column Total excludes claimants with unreported age or those reporting age less than 16 or greater than 85. Columns 1-3 count the total number of initial claims filed in that week, including additional claims.

FIGURE 3: Distribution of Initial UI Claims by Generation, 2/22/2020 - 7/25/2020

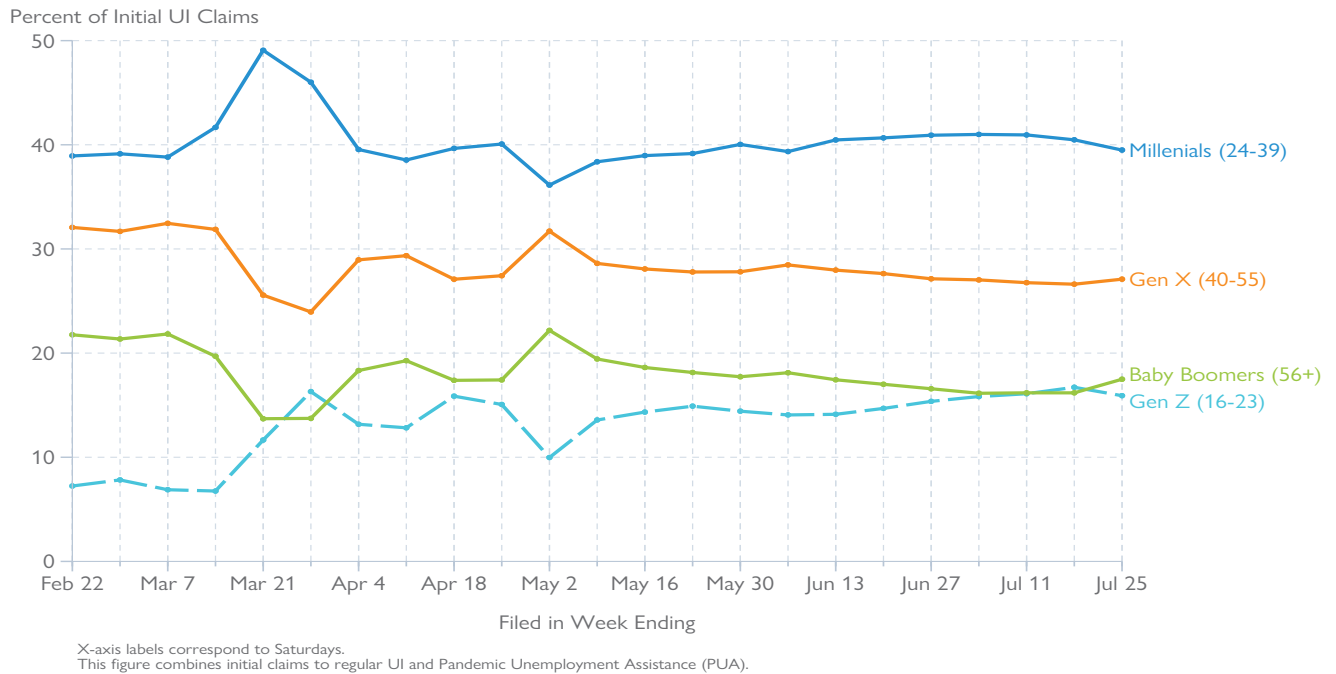


FIGURE 4: Share of Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis in California by Education Group, 2/29/2020–6/2020

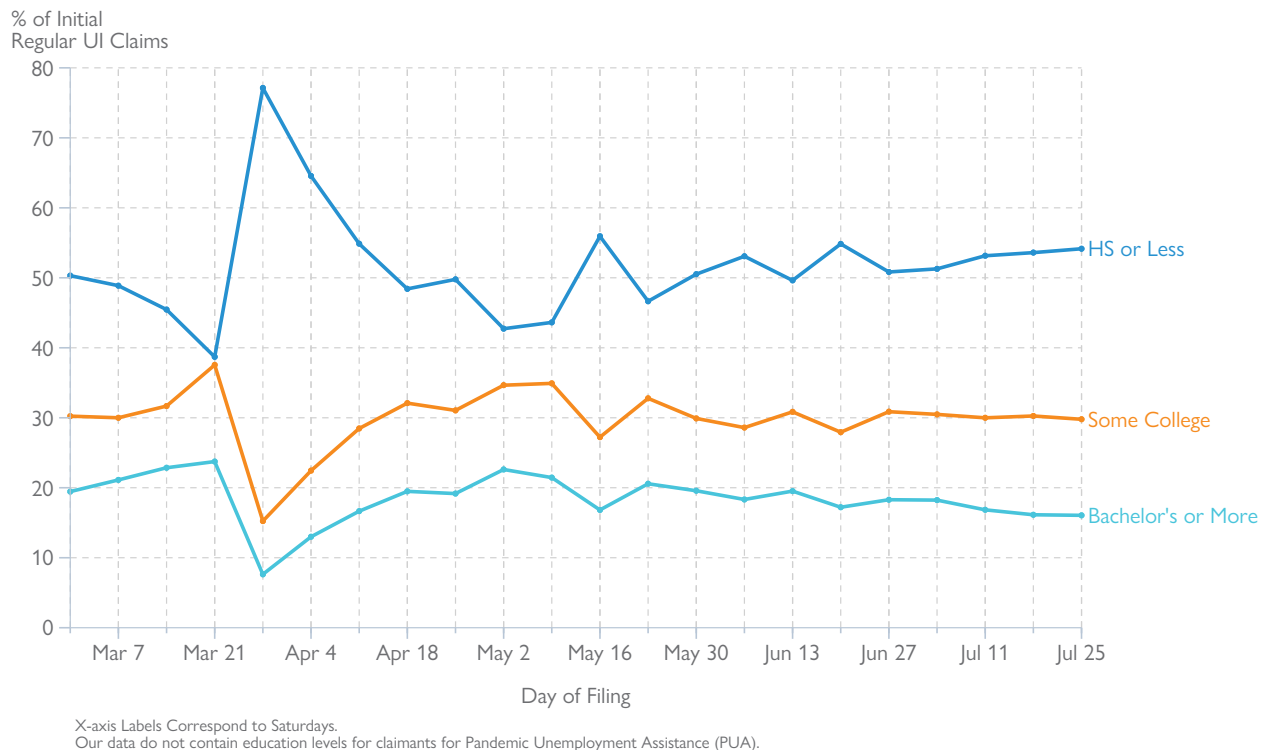


TABLE 6: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Education

EDUCATION GROUP	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>Less Than High School Degree</b>	32,933	32,983	19,223	510,041	2,283,877	22.3
<b>High School Degree or GED</b>	118,599	121,822	77,664	2,431,322	4,295,053	56.6
<b>Associate's Degree or Some College</b>	85,522	87,392	53,290	1,373,111	5,075,283	27.1
<b>Bachelor's Degree</b>	37,089	36,058	22,385	631,444	4,927,569	12.8
<b>Graduate Degree</b>	10,947	10,554	6,351	177,331	2,848,218	6.2
<b>Column Total</b>	285,090	288,809	178,913	5,123,249	19,430,000	26.4

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Does not include PUA claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Column Total excludes claimants with unreported education level. Labor force numbers have been calculated using a 12-month moving average ending in February from the CPS to be consistent with EDD's numbers. Columns 1-3 count the total number of initial claims filed in that week, including additional claims. For a definition of unique claimants, see the note to Table 1.

TABLE 7: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Race and Ethnicity

RACE	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	INITIAL CLAIMS WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>White</b>	86,906	87,579	73,792	1,524,743	7,506,246	20.3
<b>Hispanic</b>	115,460	118,946	99,328	1,789,210	7,304,335	24.5
<b>Asian</b>	37,976	37,702	31,824	758,321	3,035,206	25.0
<b>Black</b>	25,526	24,643	22,117	340,488	1,038,524	32.8
<b>Column Total</b>	265,868	268,870	227,061	4,412,762	18,884,310	23.4

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance benefits among California residents. Does not include PUA Claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. White and Black do not include those identifying as Hispanic. Table does not show information on claimants in which race is unknown, specified as 'other,' or specified as Native American or Alaskan Native, due to small sample sizes. Labor force numbers have been calculated using a 12-month moving average ending in February from the CPS to be consistent with EDD's numbers. Columns 1-3 count the total number of initial claims filed in that week, including additional claims. For a definition of unique claimants, see the note to Table 1.

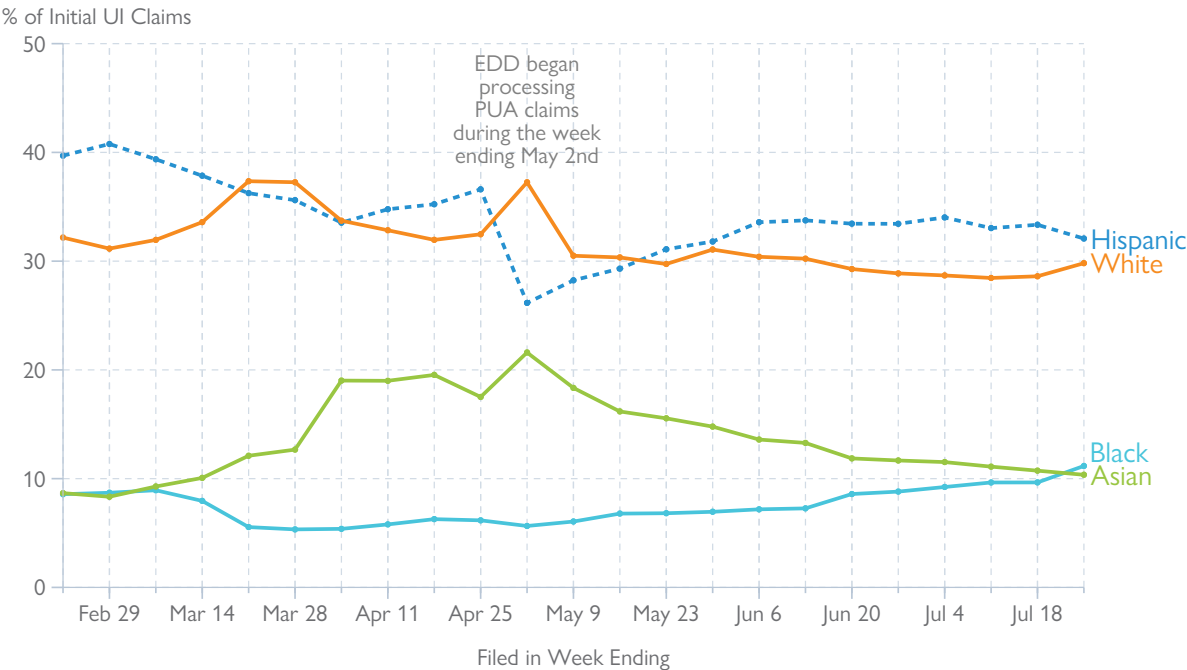
TABLE 8: Status of First Payment for Initial UI Claims Filed During COVID-19 Crisis, by Demographic Group

GROUP	Since March 15th		March 15th- July 11th		2 Weeks: June 28th - July 11th	
	TOTAL POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CLAIMS	TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	PERCENT OF CLAIMS POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT	PERCENT OF CLAIMS PAID	PARTIAL UI CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF REGULAR CLAIMS PAID (EXCLUDING PUA)	PERCENT OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE REGULAR CLAIMS DENIED DUE TO EARNINGS (EXCLUDING PUA)
<b>Statewide</b>	4,728,453	4,308,069	75.6	68.8	9.7	11.5
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	2,425,102	2,192,433	76.4	69.0	11.0	12.4
<b>Male</b>	2,293,860	2,106,892	74.8	68.6	8.4	10.5
<b>By Age Group</b>						
<b>16–19</b>	172,695	178,732	72.4	72.2	5.9	6.7
<b>20–24</b>	682,958	639,349	80.8	75.2	8.9	9.5
<b>25–34</b>	1,254,667	1,128,137	76.2	68.4	9.7	11.6
<b>35–44</b>	884,937	793,106	74.3	66.4	9.6	12.9
<b>45–54</b>	784,347	709,742	74.1	66.9	10.2	13.5
<b>55–64</b>	654,823	598,698	74.2	67.7	11.8	12.7
<b>65–85</b>	259,770	248,277	72.5	68.4	12.6	9.4
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>						
<b>White</b>	1,319,928	1,192,655	76.0	68.8	10.1	12.4
<b>Hispanic</b>	1,300,328	1,183,742	78.5	71.3	9.9	11.0
<b>Asian</b>	706,794	648,681	78.1	71.5	12.0	14.4
<b>Black</b>	228,948	211,150	71.8	66.6	6.8	8.3
<b>By Education</b>						
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	1,678,861	1,514,120	69.9	63.2	7.4	8.6
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	808,579	733,186	77.6	70.0	10.6	12.6
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	477,222	418,623	79.2	69.2	13.4	15.8

Notes: "Potentially Eligible" includes claims which are either paid or have payment denied due to excess weekly earnings or full-time work. Columns (1)-(4) include PUA, Columns (5)-(6) exclude PUA. Column (1) = Number of Claims paid + Number of payments denied due to excessive earnings or FT work. Column (3) = Potentially eligible Claims as a percent of all initial claims during period. Column (4) = Claims Receiving payment as a percent of all initial claims during period. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file and data on Continuing Claims. See Appendix for Table 8B: Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Education Level and Major Industry.

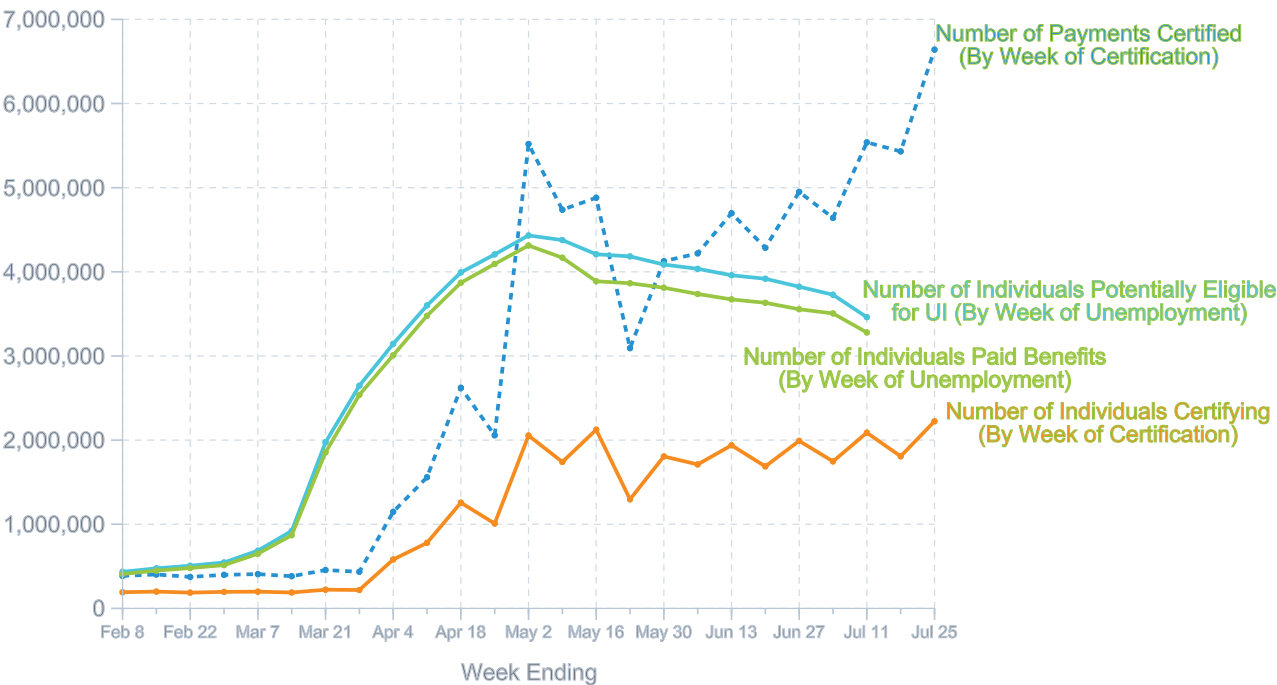


FIGURE 5: Share of Initial UI Claims (including PUA) During the COVID-19 Crisis in California by Race and Ethnicity, 2/22/2020–7/25/2020



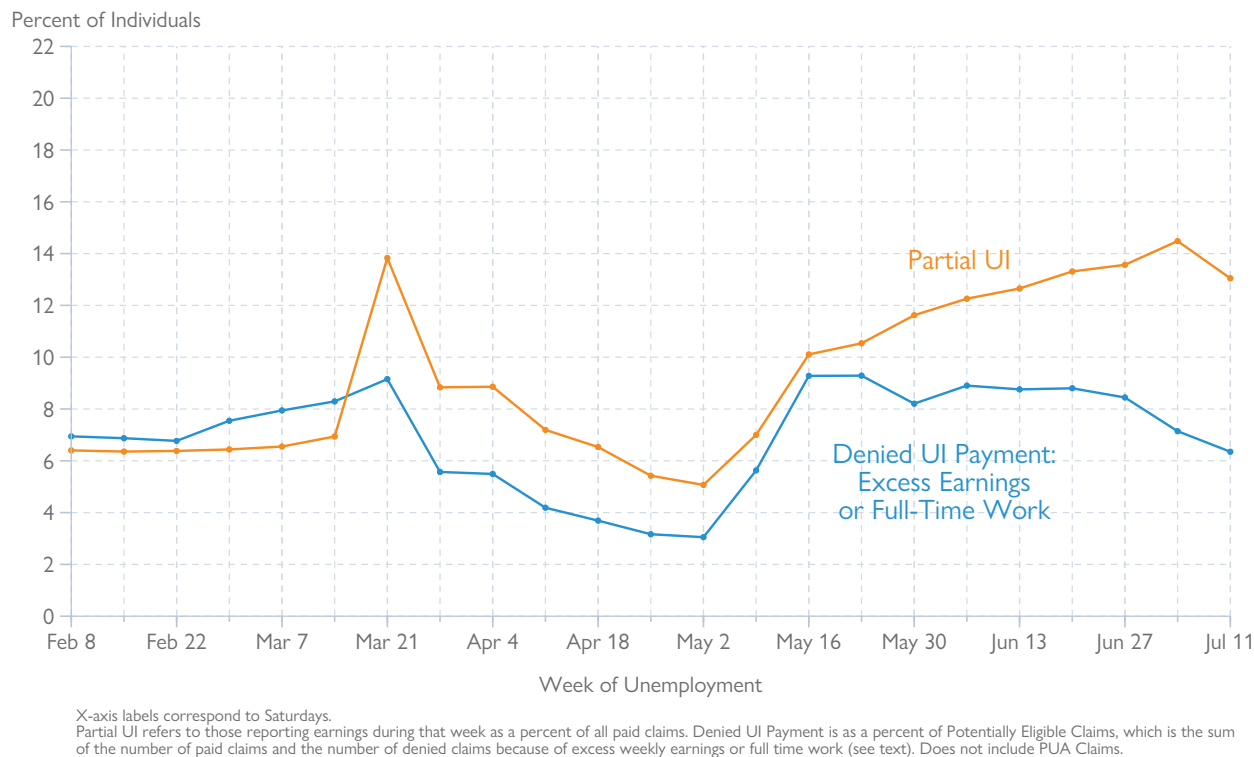
X-axis labels correspond to Saturdays.  
This figure combines initial claims to regular UI and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).  
Figure does not show information on claimants in which race is unknown, specified as 'other', or specified as Native American or Alaskan Native, due to small sample sizes.

FIGURE 6: Total Number of Individuals Potentially Eligible by Week of Unemployment, Total Number of Individuals Processed by Week of Certification, and Total Payments Processed by Week of Certification, 2/8/2020- 7/25/2020



X-axis labels correspond to Saturdays. Individuals potentially eligible refers those who were either paid or had payment denied due to earnings or full-time work, after adjusting for individuals appearing in the data solely for underpayment adjustments. The "Number of Payments Certified" refers to the number of payments that were certified in a given week (the common definition of continuing UI claims). The "Number of Individuals Certifying" refers to the number of people that certify for UI benefits in a given week. The "Number of People Potentially Eligible" refers to the number of people either paid or denied benefits due to excess earnings or full-time work during a given week of unemployment.

**FIGURE 7: Percent of Potentially Eligible Claimants with Payment Denied Due to Excess Earnings, and Percent of Paid Claimants Receiving Partial UI, 2/8/2020 - 7/11/2020**



**FIGURE 8: Percent of Potentially Eligible Claims with Payment Denied Due to Excess Earnings, and Partial UI as a Percent of Paid Claims, by Industry, 2/8/2020- 7/11/2020**

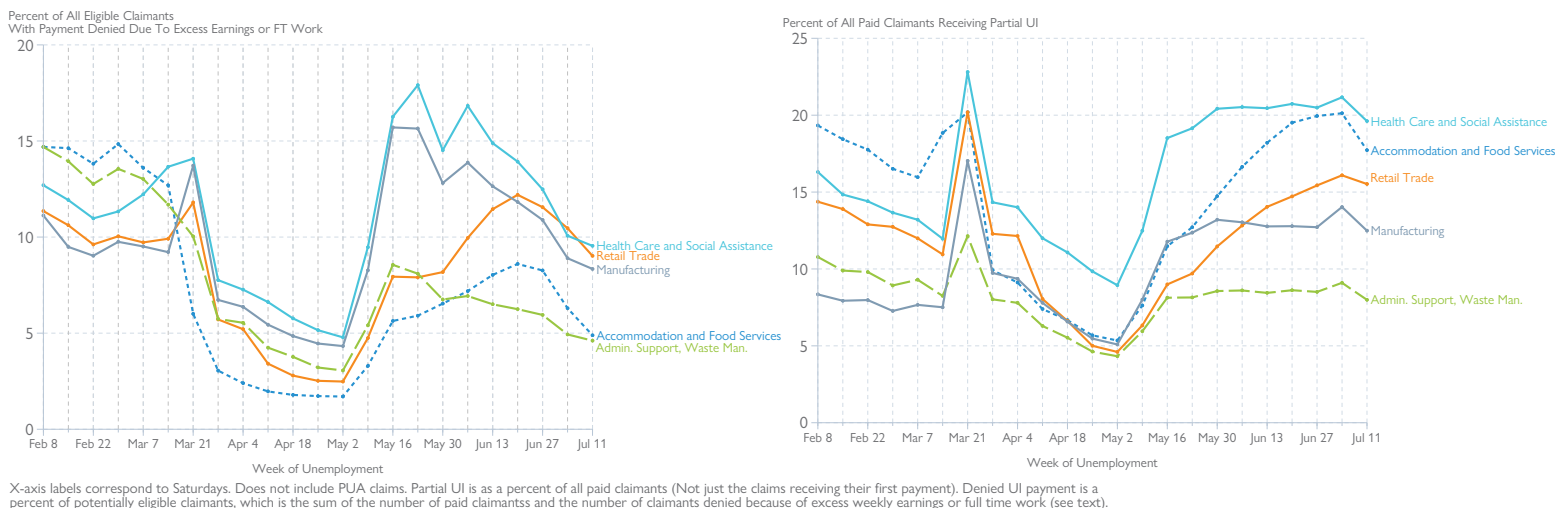


TABLE 9: Individuals Potentially Eligible for UI Benefits and Receiving UI Benefits, Total and as Fraction of the Labor Force and the Unemployed, and Share with Reduced UI Benefits, for Unemployment in the Week Ending July 11th.

GROUP	INDIVIDUALS WITH POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CLAIMS	INDIVIDUALS WITH CLAIMS PAID	INDIVIDUALS WITH PARTIAL UI PAYMENTS AS A PERCENT OF ALL PAID CLAIMS	PERCENT OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WITH PAYMENT DENIED	INDIVIDUALS WITH POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF FEB LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING FULL WBA AS A PERCENT OF UNEMPLOYED IN JUNE
<b>Statewide</b>	3,461,332	3,279,487	10.6	5.3	17.8	100.4
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	1,727,662	1,623,999	13.0	6.0	19.6	101.7
<b>Male</b>	1,617,045	1,541,319	8.5	4.7	15.2	103.6
<b>By Age Group</b>						
<b>16–19</b>	126,759	119,134	8.3	6.0	23.9	61.7
<b>20–24</b>	473,231	446,196	11.9	5.7	27.2	96.4
<b>25–34</b>	903,026	855,475	11.6	5.3	18.9	107.6
<b>35–44</b>	638,592	604,411	10.3	5.4	14.8	117.8
<b>45–54</b>	552,164	521,105	10.9	5.6	14.1	101.2
<b>55–64</b>	457,137	432,318	10.5	5.4	15.1	98.9
<b>65–85</b>	181,359	174,389	9.1	3.8	15.7	111.4
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>						
<b>White</b>	1,064,092	1,007,102	10.1	5.4	14.2	99.2
<b>Hispanic</b>	1,069,723	1,001,981	12.2	6.3	14.6	88.4
<b>Asian</b>	556,779	527,714	13.7	5.2	18.3	87.8
<b>Black</b>	280,771	272,174	6.9	3.1	27.0	126.2
<b>By Education</b>						
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	1,365,392	1,281,920	13.2	6.1	20.8	101.6
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	706,012	658,161	14.3	6.8	13.9	73.3
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	418,101	389,846	12.8	6.8	5.4	38.3

Notes: "Potentially Eligible" includes claims which are either paid or have payment denied due to excess weekly earnings or full-time work. PUA claimants do not report education, and thus are excluded from the "By Education" section."

TABLE 10: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Education Level and Demographic Group

GROUP	High School or Less		Some College or Associates Degree		Bachelor's or More	
	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	PERCENT OF GROUP'S LABOR FORCE	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	PERCENT OF GROUP'S LABOR FORCE	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	PERCENT OF GROUP'S LABOR FORCE
<b>Statewide</b>	2,941,368	44.7	1,373,116	27.1	808,775	10.4
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	1,270,410	49.2	717,355	28.2	430,461	11.6
<b>Male</b>	1,361,914	34.4	568,340	21.2	329,615	8.4
<b>By Race</b>						
<b>Asian</b>	362,280	71.7	192,490	34.2	194,549	9.8
<b>Black</b>	187,547	74.2	103,101	27.9	40,435	9.9
<b>Hispanic</b>	1,168,653	28.5	455,868	22.6	125,980	10.6
<b>White</b>	725,044	46.6	437,687	20.9	338,392	8.8
<b>By Generation</b>						
<b>Gen Z (16-23)</b>	502,060	61.5	261,250	32.0	46,704	20.0
<b>Millenials (24-38)</b>	1,035,219	45.5	546,708	27.9	365,734	11.5
<b>Gen X (40-55)</b>	672,121	30.3	294,338	19.7	212,021	8.1
<b>Baby Boomers (56+)</b>	418,961	34.2	181,935	18.7	134,503	8.3

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Table Includes PUA claims. For a definition of unique claimants, see the note to Table 1.

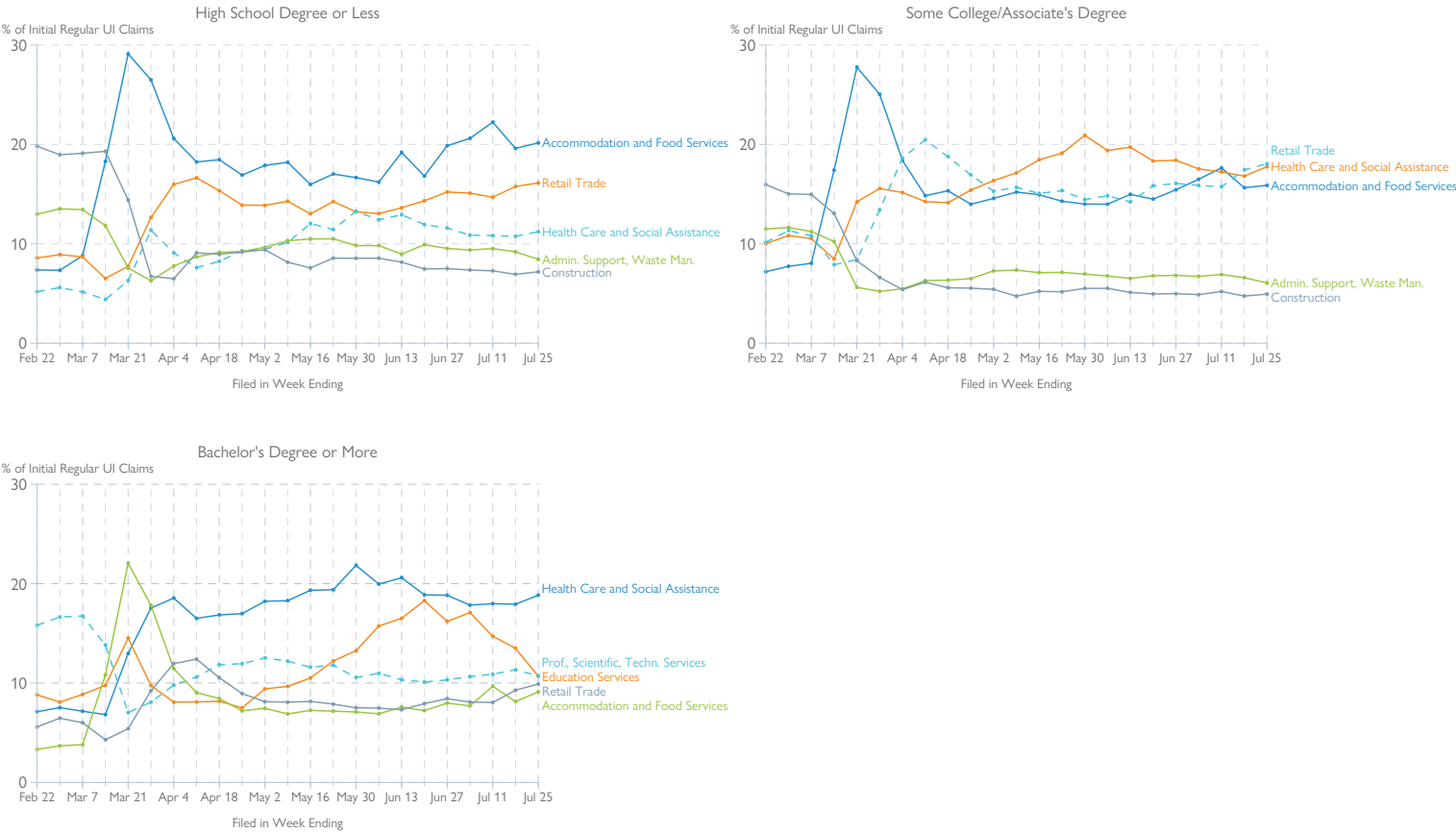


TABLE 11: Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Claims in the Last Two Weeks, Total UI Claims Since Mid-March, and Total Unique Claimants Since Mid-March, by Demographic Group

GROUP	Last Two Weeks: July 12th- July 25th		TOTAL CUMULATED CLAIMS (PUA + REGULAR)	Since March 15th		
	PUA CLAIMS	PERCENT OF PUA CLAIMANTS		CUMULAED CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	CUMULATED UNIQUE CLAIMANTS	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
Statewide	256,838	100	8,558,567	44.0	6,229,669	32.1
By Gender						
Female	116,813	45.5	4,375,174	49.6	3,141,863	35.6
Male	139,804	54.5	4,167,727	39.3	3,073,773	29.0
By Age Group						
16–19	12,710	5.1	318,595	60.0	253,582	47.8
20–24	21,890	8.8	1,162,704	66.8	878,294	50.4
25–34	58,483	23.5	2,301,313	48.1	1,661,392	34.8
35–44	53,709	21.6	1,652,506	38.4	1,170,939	27.2
45–54	45,834	18.4	1,453,889	37.2	1,033,298	26.5
55–64	37,028	14.9	1,199,765	39.7	862,069	28.6
65–85	19,206	7.7	430,161	37.3	352,587	30.6
By Generation						
Gen Z (16-23)	29,770	12.0	1,231,466	66.0	946,682	50.7
Millennials (24-39)	91,409	36.7	3,450,034	46.6	2,482,807	33.5
Gen X (40-55)	75,836	30.5	2,352,287	37.2	1,671,091	26.4
Baby Boomers (56+)	51,845	20.8	1,485,177	38.9	1,092,030	28.6
By Race and Ethnicity						
White	71,092	27.7	2,756,311	36.4	2,014,127	26.6
Hispanic	42,610	16.6	2,826,399	38.4	2,051,038	27.8
Asian	14,577	5.7	1,307,671	42.7	954,288	31.2
Black	35,863	14.0	596,600	57.0	478,437	45.7

Notes: Claims refer to claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Table excludes claimants not reporting Gender. White and Black do not include those identifying as Hispanic. Table does not show information on claimants in which race is unknown, specified as 'other', or specified as Native American or Alaskan Natives, due to small sample sizes.

FIGURE 9: Share of Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis in California by Education Group and Top Industries, 2/22/2020-7/25/2020



X-axis labels correspond to Saturdays. Our data do not contain education levels for claimants for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA).

FIGURE 10: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Significantly Raises Weekly Benefit Amounts

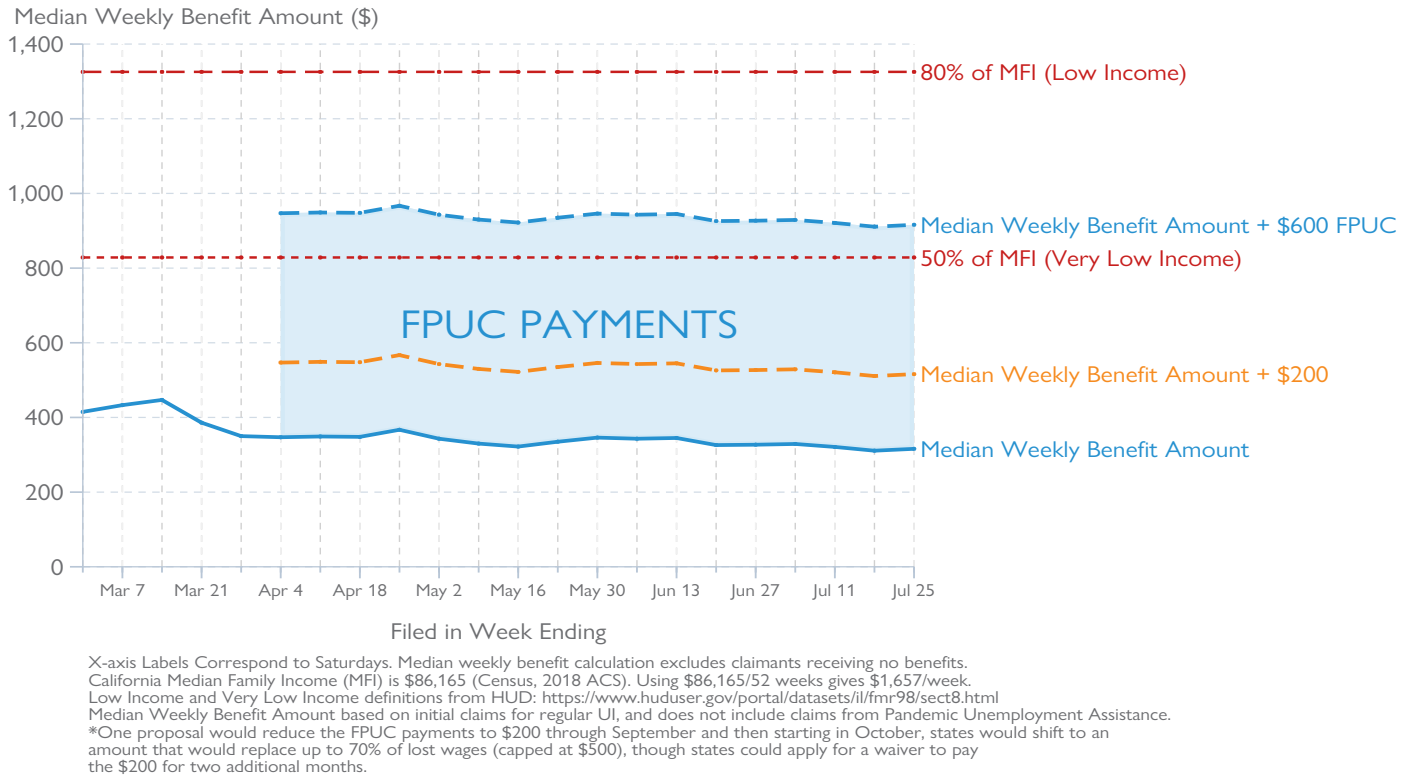


FIGURE 11: Average Replacement Rates Continue to be Higher Than Pre-Crisis Levels, Indicating a Larger Share of Lower-Income Claimants

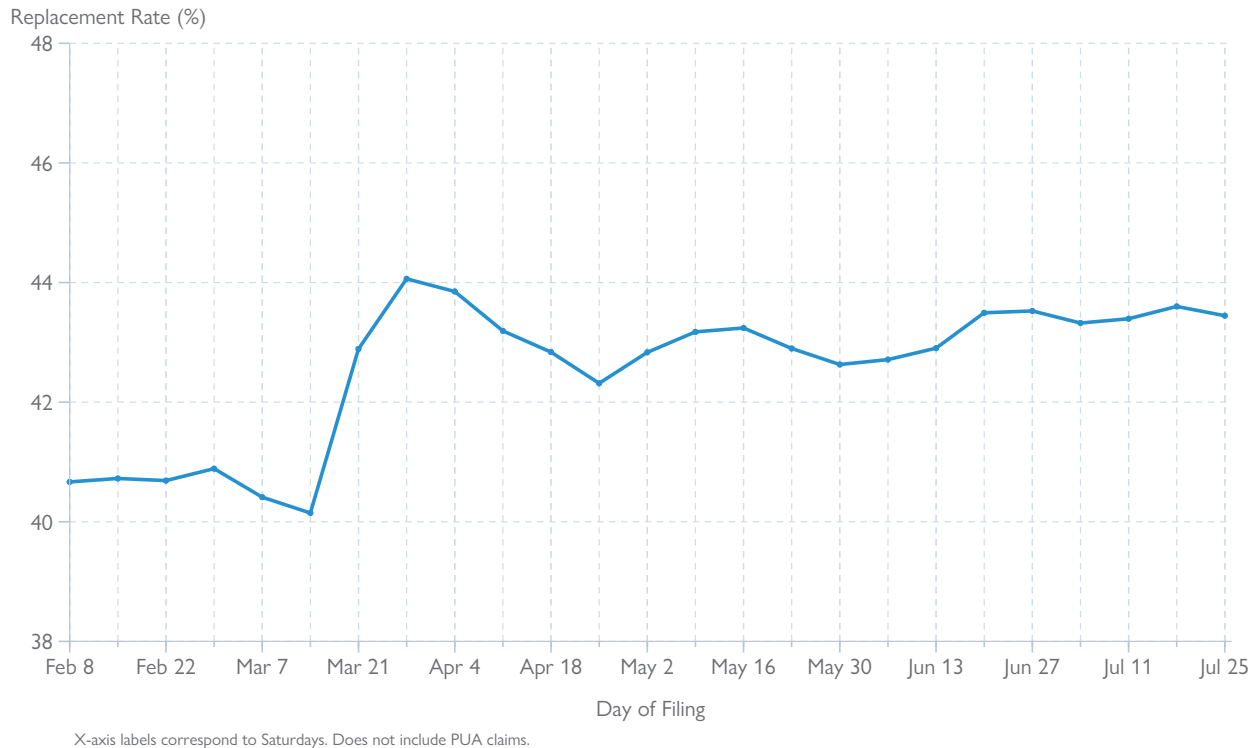


TABLE 12: Percent of Initial UI Claimants Expecting Recall and the Median Weekly Benefit Amount Before and After the Start of the COVID-19 Crisis in California

GROUP	PERCENT EXPECTING RECALL			WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT (\$)		
	FEBRUARY AVERAGE	SINCE MARCH 15TH	LAST 2 WEEKS (JULY 12TH-JULY 25TH)	FEBRUARY AVERAGE	SINCE MARCH 15TH	LAST 2 WEEKS (JULY 12TH-JULY 25TH)
<b>Statewide</b>	28.9	80.0	61.3	418	339	314
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	25.5	80.7	62.2	328	301	280
<b>Male</b>	31.7	79.3	60.4	450	394	369
<b>By Age Group</b>						
<b>16–19</b>	30.5	77.5	58.1	166	125	118
<b>20–24</b>	28.1	76.7	58.4	263	212	199
<b>25–34</b>	25.4	79.1	60.6	388	349	328
<b>35–44</b>	25.2	80.5	62.1	450	435	414
<b>45–54</b>	31.1	82.0	63.5	450	437	422
<b>55–64</b>	34.5	82.5	63.6	450	426	409
<b>65–85</b>	41.1	83.1	65.2	369	337	328
<b>By Education Group</b>						
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	38.9	85.7	62.0	347	312	295
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	20.7	74.0	62.0	435	339	320
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	13.7	69.5	58.2	450	446	446
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>						
<b>White</b>	19.7	80.4	58.7	450	384	352
<b>Black</b>	15.3	72.7	57.4	330	288	261
<b>Hispanic</b>	41.1	80.5	64.9	356	318	296
<b>Asian</b>	19.9	80.8	60.6	450	359	346

Notes: Columns 1-3 exclude additional claims to regular UI. Columns 4-6 include all initial claimants to regular UI, including additional claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Does not include PUA claims. Median weekly benefit amount calculation excludes claimants receiving no benefits.

TABLE 13: Average and Median Replacement Rates Before and During the COVID-19 Crisis, by Demographic Group with and without Additional Benefits from Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

GROUP	AVERAGE REPLACEMENT RATE (%)			MEDIAN REPLACEMENT RATE (%)		
	FEBRUARY	JUNE 7TH-JUNE 20TH	JUNE 27TH-JULY 11TH INCLUDING +\$600	FEBRUARY	JUNE 7TH-JUNE 20TH	JUNE 7TH-JULY 11TH INCLUDING +\$600
<b>Statewide</b>	40.7	43.5	161.9	50.0	50.0	137.2
<b>By Gender</b>						
<b>Female</b>	43.9	45.5	177.0	50.0	50.1	149.4
<b>Male</b>	38.6	41.0	142.2	43.7	50.0	120.7
<b>By Age Group</b>						
<b>16–19</b>	49.4	49.4	324.3	50.1	50.2	290.8
<b>20–24</b>	47.8	48.8	222.9	50.1	50.1	194.3
<b>25–34</b>	43.2	44.9	154.4	50.0	50.0	135.4
<b>35–44</b>	39.0	40.5	131.2	45.4	48.8	114.8
<b>45–54</b>	37.9	40.1	130.8	43.7	48.9	115.1
<b>55–64</b>	38.6	40.5	132.8	45.5	50.0	118.2
<b>65–85</b>	42.2	42.7	160.1	50.0	50.0	135.7
<b>By Education Group</b>						
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	44.0	44.9	168.7	50.0	50.1	143.1
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	40.8	44.1	167.2	49.8	50.0	140.3
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	32.9	37.6	127.8	32.6	43.3	102.2
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>						
<b>White</b>	36.6	41.5	154.3	39.6	50.0	127.4
<b>Black</b>	44.4	45.3	185.2	50.0	50.1	150.9
<b>Hispanic</b>	44.2	45.5	167.1	50.0	50.1	144.1
<b>Asian</b>	38.2	42.2	157.3	45.8	50.0	129.9

Notes: Table includes initial regular claims for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Replacement rate calculation exclude claimants receiving no benefits. Does not include PUA claims. Table excludes claimants not reporting Gender. White and Black do not include those identifying as Hispanic. Table does not show information on claimants in which race is unknown, specified as 'other', or specified as Native American or Alaskan Natives, due to small sample sizes.

TABLE 14: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force by Major Industry

MAJOR INDUSTRY (2 DIGIT NAICS)	WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	46,136	41,586	33,758	759,719	1,724,000	44.1
<b>Retail Trade</b>	34,276	38,331	31,708	582,471	1,654,500	35.2
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	34,623	34,696	30,299	515,134	2,461,900	20.9
<b>Admin. Support, Waste Man. (a)</b>	20,426	20,135	17,688	335,868	1,143,700	29.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	15,680	15,581	13,767	264,488	1,318,500	20.1
<b>Construction</b>	14,317	13,776	12,115	241,314	896,400	26.9
<b>Education Services</b>	15,227	14,201	11,364	228,606	393,100	58.2
<b>Other Services</b>	9,814	15,072	10,668	212,235	581,300	36.5
<b>Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services (a)</b>	11,551	11,909	10,078	209,518	1,357,200	15.4
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	10,872	11,968	9,179	197,508	332,500	59.4
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	9,856	9,782	8,554	160,741	718,300	22.4
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	8,069	8,112	7,021	155,216	689,700	22.5
<b>Information</b>	6,712	6,748	5,994	129,146	586,600	22.0
<b>Real Estate and Leasing</b>	3,241	3,337	2,989	74,750	305,300	24.5
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (a)</b>	5,267	4,927	4,109	65,403	431,100	15.2
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	2,591	2,736	2,308	49,546	544,100	9.1
<b>Management</b>	1,146	1,214	963	21,306	252,900	8.4
<b>Mining, Oil and Gas</b>	249	290	262	4,473	22,800	19.6
<b>Column Total</b>	250,053	254,401	212,824	4,207,442	15,413,900	27.3

Notes: Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Does not include PUA claims. Industry of main employer prior to layoff was obtained from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages according to North American Industrial Classification Systems (Naics, see [https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm)). Column Total excludes NAICS Code 92 (Public Admin), Unclassified NAICS codes, and those with unreported NAICS codes. In a previous version of Table 14 in the pdf circulated before September 16th, the following industry labels were mis-ordered: Education Services; Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services; Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities; and Wholesale Trade.

(a) Full Names of Sectors: Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services.



TABLE 15: Percent of Initial UI Claimants Expecting Recall and the Median Weekly Benefit Amount Before and After the Start of the COVID-19 Crisis in California

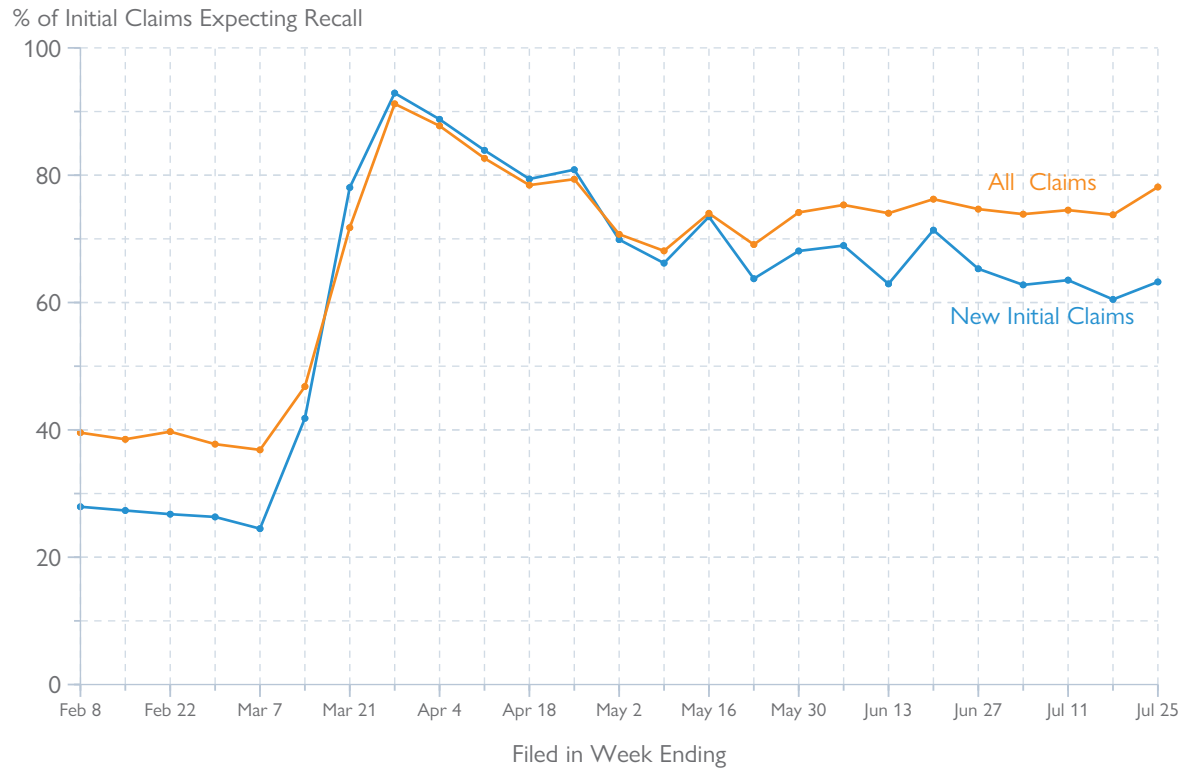
MAJOR INDUSTRY (2 DIGIT NAICS)	PERCENT EXPECTING RECALL			MEDIAN WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT (\$)		
	FEBRUARY AVERAGE	SINCE MARCH 15TH	2 WEEKS (JULY 12TH- JULY 25TH)	FEBRUARY AVERAGE	SINCE MARCH 15TH	2 WEEKS (JUNE 12TH- JULY 25TH)
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	19.6	82.7	60.1	282	252	237
<b>Retail Trade</b>	13.9	78.4	56.6	275	251	223
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	13.7	78.2	59.6	337	366	343
<b>Admin. Support, Waste Man. (a)</b>	23.6	71.9	57.1	313	298	281
<b>Manufacturing</b>	25.4	78.9	62.7	424	421	418
<b>Construction</b>	44.9	80.3	64.5	450	450	450
<b>Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services (a)</b>	12.7	71.6	56.5	450	450	450
<b>Education Services</b>	15.2	76.6	70.3	389	265	278
<b>Other Services</b>	13.7	82.3	63.0	347	276	269
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	23.7	85.7	70.2	338	297	288
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	27.8	73.3	58.4	391	388	385
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	13.5	76.0	55.2	450	446	450
<b>Information</b>	26.2	78.2	62.3	450	450	450
<b>Real Estate and Leasing</b>	10.5	75.4	54.1	447	418	392
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (a)</b>	80.8	82.3	78.5	275	276	262
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	5.9	64.0	52.2	450	417	400
<b>Management</b>	3.1	73.7	54.8	450	449	450
<b>Mining, Oil and Gas</b>	12.0	69.0	59.6	450	450	450

Notes: Columns 1-3 exclude additional claims to regular UI. Columns 4-6 include all initial claimants to regular UI, including additional claims.

Industries listed in descending order of total claims as in Table 14. Table refers to information from initial regular claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Median WBA calculation excludes claimants receiving no benefits. Industry of main employer (see text) according to North American Industrial Classification Systems (NAICS, see [https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm)). Does not include PUA claims.

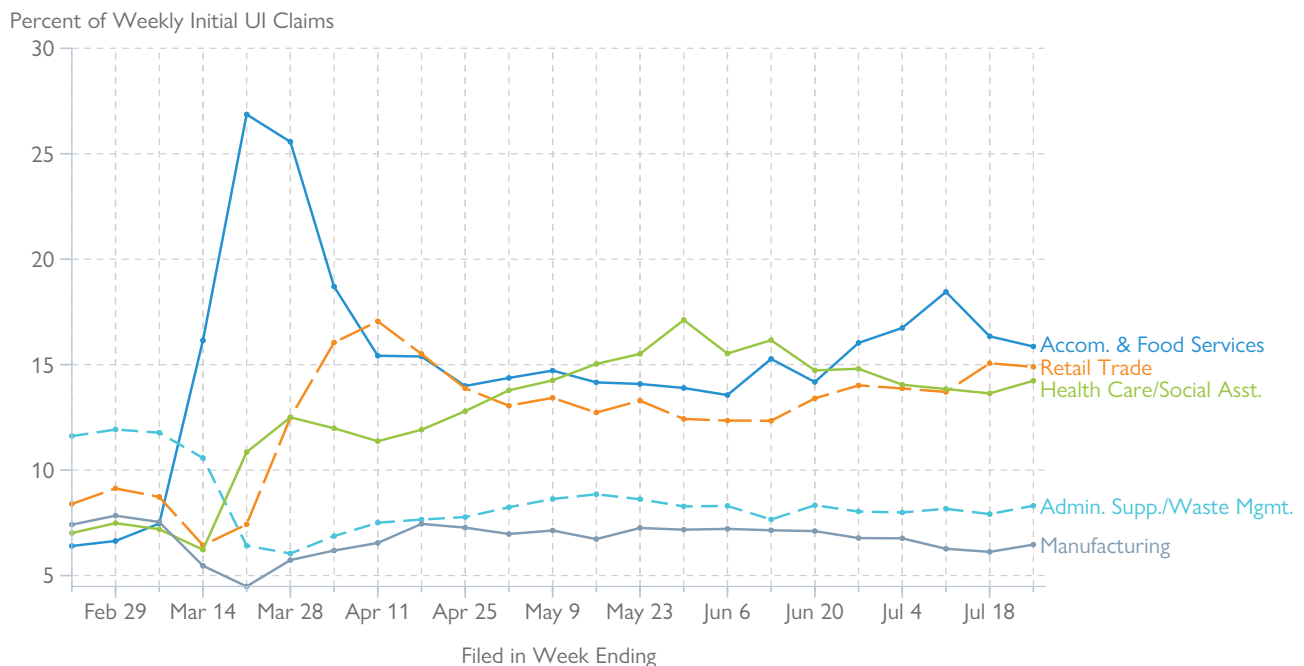
(a) Full Names of Sectors: Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services.

**FIGURE 12: Percent of Claimants Reporting They Expect to be Recalled to Prior Job Before and After Start of COVID-19 Crisis in California in Mid-March**



X-axis Labels Correspond to Saturdays. This figure excludes PUA claims.  
 New initial claims excludes additional and transitional claims. For claimants filing an additional claim, information on their recall expectations is only collected once, in the week of the original claim, not in the week they re-open the claim.

**FIGURE 13: Share of Initial UI Claims by Five Most Impacted Industries During the COVID-19 Crisis in California, 2/22/2020 - 7/25/2020**



X-axis Labels Correspond to Saturdays.  
 This figures is based on initial claims for regular UI. It does not include information from claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, most of which were self-employed (see text).  
 Additional claims are included.

TABLE 16: Percent of Initial UI Claimants Expecting Recall and the Median Weekly Benefit Amount By Industry, Before and After the Start of the COVID-19 Crisis in California

MAJOR INDUSTRY (2 DIGIT NAICS)	AVERAGE REPLACEMENT RATE (%)			MEDIAN REPLACEMENT RATE (%)		
	FEBRUARY	LAST 2 WEEKS: JUNE 27TH- JULY 11TH	LAST 2 WEEKS INCLUDING +\$600	FEBRUARY	LAST 2 WEEKS: JUNE 27TH- JULY 11TH	LAST 2 WEEKS INCLUDING +\$600
<b>Accommodation Food Svc</b>	46.6	46.7	188.5	50.1	50.1	161.6
<b>Retail Trade</b>	45.7	47.1	202.8	50.1	50.1	175.1
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	44.7	42.7	144.6	50.0	50.0	127.9
<b>Admin. Support, Waste Man. (a)</b>	44.5	45.0	168.6	50.1	50.1	144.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	41.0	40.3	115.5	46.8	44.4	107.9
<b>Construction</b>	35.2	35.1	97.9	34.6	34.5	80.9
<b>Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services (a)</b>	33.5	37.0	119.4	33.5	41.4	97.6
<b>Education Services</b>	43.1	45.2	192.3	50.0	50.1	149.7
<b>Other Services</b>	44.1	46.7	184.0	50.0	50.1	155.9
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	42.8	44.5	173.9	50.0	50.1	145.1
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	43.4	42.7	142.0	48.7	47.0	121.2
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	39.4	39.8	119.7	47.1	46.4	108.8
<b>Information</b>	28.8	31.1	103.0	24.9	28.5	66.8
<b>Real Estate and Leasing</b>	40.3	42.2	141.7	48.4	50.0	123.6
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (a)</b>	48.0	48.2	187.0	50.1	50.1	155.9
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	35.5	41.7	130.7	40.0	50.0	125.7
<b>Management</b>	33.2	38.7	116.8	33.1	42.7	101.1
<b>Mining, Oil and Gas</b>	32.8	27.7	68.7	32.1	26.3	61.5

Notes: Industries sorted in descending order of total UI claims as in Table 9. Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits among California residents. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Industry of main employer in base period (see text) according to North American Industrial Classification Systems (NAICS see [https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag\\_index\\_naics.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag_index_naics.htm)). Does not include PUA claims.

(a) Full Names of Sectors: Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services.

TABLE 17: Initial UI Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis and Total UI Claims as a Fraction of Labor Force in 20 Largest Counties

COUNTY	INITIAL CLAIMS IN WEEK ENDING JULY 11TH	INITIAL CLAIMS IN WEEK ENDING JULY 18TH	INITIAL CLAIMS IN WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS SINCE MARCH 15TH	WORKERS IN LABOR FORCE IN FEBRUARY	UNIQUE CLAIMANTS AS % OF LABOR FORCE
<b>Los Angeles</b>	81,562	82,997	70,422	1,848,680	5,222,800	35.4
<b>San Diego</b>	24,889	25,220	20,247	523,058	1,577,600	33.2
<b>Orange</b>	22,842	23,685	18,784	521,961	1,623,900	32.1
<b>Riverside</b>	20,432	21,108	16,937	395,163	1,104,700	35.8
<b>San Bernardino</b>	18,054	18,467	15,180	343,034	969,700	35.4
<b>Alameda</b>	10,247	9,679	8,821	255,584	840,400	30.4
<b>Santa Clara</b>	9,715	9,338	8,687	246,547	1,055,300	23.4
<b>Sacramento</b>	11,766	11,960	10,125	241,147	714,800	33.7
<b>Contra Costa</b>	6,948	6,985	6,378	174,149	541,300	32.2
<b>San Francisco</b>	5,207	4,858	4,487	143,856	587,200	24.5
<b>Fresno</b>	8,125	8,134	7,009	139,610	454,000	30.8
<b>Kern</b>	7,334	6,961	5,990	129,198	395,800	32.6
<b>Ventura</b>	5,880	6,292	5,208	121,818	424,700	28.7
<b>San Joaquin</b>	6,409	6,362	5,430	120,968	326,500	37.1
<b>San Mateo</b>	3,779	3,774	3,331	100,550	462,900	21.7
<b>Stanislaus</b>	4,623	4,680	3,979	83,013	244,000	34.0
<b>Sonoma</b>	2,974	3,238	2,816	73,113	258,500	28.3
<b>Solano</b>	3,443	3,583	3,086	67,645	208,500	32.4
<b>Tulare</b>	4,234	4,016	3,585	59,890	205,400	29.2
<b>Santa Barbara</b>	2,571	2,690	2,144	55,152	215,500	25.6
<b>Column Total</b>	261,034	264,025	222,643	5,644,136	17,433,500	32.4

Notes: Counties listed in descending order of total claims. Claims refer to initial claims for regular unemployment insurance benefits among California residents. Does not include PUA claims. Tabulations based on initial UI claims file. Column Total excludes counties outside the top 20.

# SupplementaryAppendix

TABLE 8B: Outcomes of Continuing Claims During the COVID-19 Crisis, by Major Industry

MAJOR INDUSTRY (2 DIGIT NAICS)	Since March 15th		March 15th - June 27th		Two weeks: June 28th - July 11th	
	TOTAL POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE CLAIMS	TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	PERCENT OF CLAIMS POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT	PERCENT OF CLAIMS PAID	PARTIAL UI CLAIMS AS A PERCENT OF REGULAR CLAIMS PAID	PERCENT OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE REGULAR CLAIMS DENIED DUE TO EARNINGS
Accommodation Food Svc	612,644	578,784	90.9	85.9	13.7	11.1
Retail Trade	449,113	413,403	89.6	82.6	11.4	12.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	379,052	324,539	89.6	76.9	15.3	21.7
Admin. Support, Waste Man. (a)	211,364	193,177	83.7	76.6	7.8	10.0
Manufacturing	192,573	170,366	90.9	80.5	12.9	17.8
Other Services	172,888	162,215	91.0	85.3	10.7	12.8
Construction	162,026	145,558	89.2	80.1	6.4	10.9
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	161,199	149,282	91.3	84.6	11.4	9.9
Prof., Scientific, Techn. Services (a)	151,018	131,167	89.2	77.6	11.3	16.1
Education Services	127,236	114,993	86.5	78.8	13.5	16.8
Wholesale Trade	119,371	104,117	90.5	79.0	12.3	17.3
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	105,808	95,822	85.6	77.4	15.1	11.7
Information	87,080	77,933	85.9	76.9	13.0	12.4
Real Estate and Leasing	57,615	51,943	89.7	80.8	11.7	14.5
Finance and Insurance	32,697	29,295	86.6	77.0	14.2	11.6
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (a)	23,160	25,789	75.1	82.6	4.7	3.8
Management	15,727	13,254	90.9	76.2	17.1	15.7
Mining, Oil and Gas	2,020	2,654	58.0	73.5	12.8	0.0

Notes: "Potentially Eligible" includes claims which are either paid or have payment denied due to excess weekly earnings or full-time work. Columns (1)-(4) include PUA, Columns (5)-(6) exclude PUA. Column (1) = Number of Claims paid + Number of payments denied due to excessive earnings or FT work. Column (3) = Potentially eligible Claims as a percent of all initial claims during period. Column (4) = Claims Receiving payment as a percent of all initial claims during period. Does not include PUA claims. (a) Full Names of Sectors: Administrative Support, Waste Management, and Remediation. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting. Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services.

TABLE 9B: Different Measures of the Fraction of the Labor Force Potentially Eligible For UI Benefits, Receiving UI Benefits, and Receiving Full WBA for the Week Ending July 11th

GROUP	February Labor Force			June Labor Force			
	INDIVIDUALS POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS PAID AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS PAID FULL WBA AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS PAID AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS PAID FULL WBA AS A PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE	INDIVIDUALS PAID LESS THAN FPL AS A PERCENT OF ALL PAID
<b>Statewide</b>	17.8	16.9	15.1	18.3	17.3	15.5	50.8
<b>By Gender</b>							
<b>Female</b>	19.6	18.4	16.0	20.1	18.9	16.4	56.8
<b>Male</b>	15.2	14.5	13.3	15.7	15.0	13.7	46.0
<b>By Age Group</b>							
<b>16–19</b>	23.9	22.4	20.6	23.1	21.7	19.9	91.1
<b>20–24</b>	27.2	25.6	22.6	28.8	27.1	23.9	69.2
<b>25–34</b>	18.9	17.9	15.8	19.6	18.6	16.5	46.9
<b>35–44</b>	14.8	14.0	12.6	15.2	14.4	12.9	44.9
<b>45–54</b>	14.1	13.3	11.9	14.6	13.8	12.3	45.7
<b>55–64</b>	15.1	14.3	12.8	15.4	14.6	13.0	46.4
<b>65–85</b>	15.7	15.1	13.8	16.0	15.4	14.0	52.7
<b>By Race and Ethnicity</b>							
<b>White</b>	14.2	13.4	12.1	14.5	13.7	12.3	48.0
<b>Hispanic</b>	14.6	13.7	12.0	15.1	14.1	12.4	50.7
<b>Asian</b>	18.3	17.4	15.0	19.0	18.0	15.5	54.5
<b>Black</b>	27.0	26.2	24.4	28.0	27.2	25.3	53.2
<b>By Education</b>							
<b>High School Degree or Less</b>	27.0	26.2	24.4	28.0	27.2	25.3	53.2
<b>Associate's Deg., Some College</b>	20.8	19.5	16.9	21.7	20.4	17.7	48.5
<b>Bachelor's Degree or More</b>	13.9	13.0	11.1	14.1	13.1	11.2	48.4

Notes: "Potentially Eligible" includes claims which are either paid or have payment denied due to excess weekly earnings or full-time work. PUA claimants do not report education, and thus are excluded from the "By Education" section.



For inquiries about the definitions, methodology, and findings of this policy brief, please contact Till von Wachter. Email: [tvwachter@econ.ucla.edu](mailto:tvwachter@econ.ucla.edu).

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*The California Policy Lab builds better lives through data-driven policy. We are a project of the University of California, with sites at the Berkeley and Los Angeles campuses.*

*This research publication reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily the views of our funders, our staff, our advisory board, the California Employment Development Department, or the Regents of the University of California.*

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This includes new claims, additional claims, and transitional claims. It excludes claims filed in CA by workers residing in a border state (but working in CA), and short-time compensation claims. When a claimant first files for UI benefits following a job loss, the claimant starts a 52-week benefit year, a period during which the benefits (typically available for 26 weeks) are payable. A “new claim” is the first claim for a given benefit year. An “additional claim” is a second (or higher) claim filed during the same benefit year after a temporary return to work. A “transitional claim” is filed when a claimant is still collecting benefits at the end of their benefit year period and is eligible to begin a new one. As per the California Employment Development Department, see: [https://www.edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/Quick\\_Statistics\\_Information\\_by\\_County.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/about_edd/Quick_Statistics_Information_by_County.htm) (Accessed April 24th, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Since the share of transitional claims has been less than 0.5% of total initial weekly claims throughout the crisis, we group them together with additional claims.

<sup>3</sup> Unique initial claims since March 15th chiefly consist of new initial claims. If an individual that was a UI recipient before the start of the crisis, and filed an additional or a transitional claim on or after March 15th, they would be included in unique claims.

<sup>4</sup> Labor force numbers by age and gender provided here: [https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/specialreports/CA\\_Employment\\_Summary\\_Table.pdf](https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/specialreports/CA_Employment_Summary_Table.pdf) Labor Force numbers by county provided here: <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/geography/lmi-by-county.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Tables 2-5 report the number of cumulated unique claimants since March 15<sup>th</sup> – our previous reports instead counted the total number of initial claims, which is higher due to some individuals filing multiple claims.

<sup>6</sup> These numbers are not comparable from those published in EDD’s report from June 4th 2020 for several reasons. We purposefully focus on initial outcomes of new initial claimants during the COVID-19 crisis. As a result, our numbers are based on claims instead of claimants; we use the date that the initial claim was filed instead of the date that the payment was filed; we exclude the subset of initial claims that are “additional” (reopened) claims; we exclude individuals that were already unemployed prior to March 15th; and we focus only on the first payment.

<sup>7</sup> We define a payment (or claim) as “partial UI” if the claimant worked at all in the relevant week. For a small fraction of cases, this counts a payment or claim as partial UI even though the claimant received a full UI payment, since their earnings were below the partial UI income disregard of \$25.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.edd.ca.gov/newsroom/unemployment-june-2020.htm>

<sup>9</sup> The more comprehensive measure is called U-6, see <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsitt15.htm>.

<sup>10</sup> It is important to bear in mind that estimates of the number of unemployed at the state level have a non-trivial amount of statistical noise for small groups. Hence, estimates of the reciprocity rate above 100% for Asian and Hispanic workers should be interpreted with caution.

<sup>11</sup> We exclude PUA claims from this section since most of them are filed by self-employed individuals. Benefits are denied if 75% of earnings in a given week are above the Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA), i.e., if  $0.75 \times \text{earnings}$  (or earnings less \$25, whichever is smaller) are greater than the claimant’s WBA. Thus the claimant can earn 4/3 of their WBA and maintain eligibility. The WBA, and hence the earnings cut off for partial UI, depends on the highest earning quarter in the base period, and is generally about 1/2 of average prior weekly earnings. Thus, a claimant can earn about  $4/3 \times 1/2 = 2/3$  of their prior average weekly earnings while maintaining eligibility.

<sup>12</sup> In partial UI, the first 25% of earnings in a week, or \$25 (whichever is less) is disregarded, to incentivize part-time work. Every dollar earned beyond this disregard amount is deducted 1 for 1 from the claimants WBA. Thus, for claimants earning greater than \$25 a week but less than 133% of their WBA, the following applies: Partial UI Payment =  $\text{WBA} - 0.75 \times \text{Weekly Earnings}$ . If the claimant earns \$25 or less per week, they receive the full WBA, and if they earn more than 133% of their WBA, they are not considered unemployed by EDD, and thus do not receive payment.

<sup>13</sup> Eligibility rules for work-sharing require hours reductions be no more than 60% and no less than 10% relative to normal hours, see [https://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf\\_pub\\_ctr/de8684.pdf](https://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de8684.pdf). Thus, an individual seeing for example a 20% reduction in work hours who is participating in an STC program would be eligible for a payment of 20% of their WBA + \$600, whereas they would be denied UI benefits because their earnings are greater than 66% of prior earnings. See the Appendix for further examples.

<sup>14</sup> Figure shown in Appendix available at <https://www.capolicylab.org/california-unemployment-insurance-claims-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.

<sup>15</sup> According to <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2017/What-Do-We-Know-About-Gig-Work-in-California.pdf>, approximately 12% of the labor force in California was self-employed in 2016 (combining both incorporated and unincorporated self-employed individuals). Our estimates based on the Current Population Survey suggests a share of 11% of self-employed in February 2020 for a 12 month moving average. Relative to the total California labor force in February 2020 reported by EDD, this implies approximately 2.15 million self-employed individuals. The number of unincorporated self-employed, that are often associated with independent contractors, is 1.5M. The remainder are incorporated self-employed.

<sup>16</sup> PUA claimants were also more likely to either identify as Native American, Alaskan Native, “Other”, or choose not to report their race. Such individuals made up 35.8% of PUA claimants, but only 8.8% of regular UI claimants.

<sup>17</sup> Table 3 of <http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2017/What-Do-We-Know-About-Gig-Work-in-California.pdf> shows demographic characteristics of the self-employed in CA in 2016; we replicated their results for February 2020 and found them to be similar.

<sup>18</sup> This process has started and is ongoing. For further information, see [https://edd.ca.gov/about\\_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.htm](https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.htm)

<sup>19</sup> The standard base period includes the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters as of the date of the claim. The WBA is approximately equal to 50% of average weekly earnings during the highest earning quarter of the base period, up to the maximum of \$450. The earnings cut off to receive the maximum WBA is \$898/week. Claimants are eligible for benefits if earnings in the highest quarter are at least \$1300, or if earnings in the highest quarter are at least \$900 and earnings in the entire base period are at least 125% of the highest quarterly amount. Workers not meeting these thresholds may qualify through the so-called Alternative Base Period, as described below. The data on initial claims used in this report contain an indicator for whether a claimant is eligible for UI benefits based on their prior earnings history. For those eligible, the data also contains an estimate of the WBA. This information is not based on actual benefit payments, and in some cases actual weekly payment amounts may deviate from what is recorded in the initial claims file. To receive FPUC starting March 29th, the worker does not have to file by that date, and will receive FPUC as long as their unemployment spell is covered by UI and falls on or after March 29th. In some cases, UI benefits, including FPUC payments, are paid retroactively. Hence, not all beneficiaries started receiving FPUC payments on March 29th. As discussed elsewhere in this report, these WBA us reduced if an claimant earnings above a disregard.

<sup>20</sup> The data on initial claims used in this report contain an indicator whether a claimant is eligible for UI benefits based on their prior earnings history. For those eligible, the data also contains an estimate of the WBA. This information is not based on actual benefit payments, and in some cases actual weekly payment amounts may deviate from what is recorded in the initial claims file.

<sup>21</sup> To receive FPUC starting March 29th, the worker does not have to file by that date, and will receive FPUC as long as their unemployment spell is covered by UI and falls on or after March 29th. In some cases, UI benefits, including FPUC payments, are paid retroactively. Hence, not all beneficiaries started receiving FPUC payments on March 29th.

<sup>22</sup> The federal poverty level and HUD's classification of low income households are based on annual income, see for example <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/fmr98/sect8.html> and <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/01/17/2020-00858/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>. To get a sense of where UI benefits would locate an individual in the income distribution, we divide the annual amounts by 52 to obtain weekly thresholds.

<sup>23</sup> See <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-labor-report/state-unemployment-officials-unite-against-wage-replacement-plan>

<sup>24</sup> See Figure 2 of [https://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Report\\_California-Housing-Affordability-Crisis-Hits-Renters-and-Households-With-the-Lowest-Incomes-the-Hardest\\_04.2019.pdf](https://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Report_California-Housing-Affordability-Crisis-Hits-Renters-and-Households-With-the-Lowest-Incomes-the-Hardest_04.2019.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> We obtain information on earnings in a claimants base period from the UI Base-Wage file. Claimants who do not earn enough to be eligible for UI in the standard base period are potentially eligible in an alternative base period, defined as the last four completed calendar quarters as of the claim. Since we currently do not observe earnings in the entire alternative base period for the most recent claimants, we omit alternative base period claimants from our replacement rate calculation calculations.

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_ca.htm#35-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_ca.htm#35-0000)

<sup>27</sup> We obtain industry by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) from the main employer in the worker's base period as recorded in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). The base period consists of the first four of the last five completed quarters as of the date of the claim. Since the QCEW is last available for the second calendar quarter of 2019, tabulations by industry are only available for firms that were active in the second quarter of 2019. We were able to link the vast majority of claims to a NAICS industry code in this way. It is important to note that the primary employer in a claimant's base period is not necessarily the claimant's last employer before the claim is filed.

<sup>28</sup> The data by county represents the mailing address given by the claimant at the time of filing for UI. It is possible that an individual can reside in a different county than their mailing address. Also, this information does not represent the county where the individual worked. It is also possible that a claimant could have moved or changed their mailing address after filing for UI which would not be reflected here. Data for claimants residing outside of California but collecting benefits are not included in these figures nor are invalid addresses in California where a county cannot be determined.