

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

ROSALIN ACOSTA
SECRETARY
RICHARD A. JEFFERS
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Michael Rodrigues, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Aaron Michlewitz, House Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Representative Stephen Hay, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Michael D. Hurley, Senate Clerk Steven T. James, House Clerk

FROM: Richard A. Jeffers

DATE: August 4, 2020

SUBJECT: July 2020 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND REPORT

The attached July 2020 Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Report provides information on the trust fund status through the end of June. Projections for the private contributory account for 2020 through 2024 remain as published in the May and June 2020 Outlook Reports.

The report highlights include:

The June 2020 private contributory account balance was -\$352.8 million, \$20.6 million less than the projection of \$373.4 million. The actual private account balance includes almost \$19 million in emergency unemployment relief. Through second quarter, employer contributions totaling \$1.102 billion were \$48 million less than projected and total benefit payments of \$3.294 billion were \$158 million higher.

Tax rate schedule E triggered for 2020 employer contributions and the taxable wage base remained at \$15,000.

The 2020 outlook for benefit payments remain at \$6.392 billion; employer contributions are estimated at \$1.585 billion and an insolvent year-end private contributory account balance expected to be -\$3.194 billion. Massachusetts needed to borrow \$159.9 from the federal unemployment account for the month of June and will continue to borrow throughout the year. The loans will be interest-free through December 2020.

Revised projections based on employer contributions and benefit payments through second quarter 2020 and the latest Moody's Analytics Data Services forecasts will be released in August.

cc: Distribution List