As of October 31, 2020, the preliminary Massachusetts Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund ending balance was -$1.823 billion. This balance is the sum of the preliminary private contributory account balance of -$1.948 billion and the governmental contributory account balance of $125 million.

The private contributory account projections for 2020 are based on the following: (1) the 2020 distribution of employer experience rates; (2) the September 2020 Moody’s Analytics Data Services economic forecasts; and (3) unemployment insurance claims and payments activities through third quarter 2020. The projections remain as published in the October 2020 Outlook Report.

Employer contributions on tax rate schedule E, as triggered, and a $15,000 taxable wage base remain estimated at $1.511 billion and benefit payments are projected to be $6.467 billion in 2020. The 2020 private contributory year-end balance is estimated to be insolvent at -$2.395 billion. The year-end balance includes other income from the emergency unemployment relief fund (FUA) and an estimated $615 million from the CARES Act reimbursements. Massachusetts needed to borrow $2.027 billion from the federal unemployment account for the month from June to October and will continue to borrow throughout the year. The loans will be interest-free through December 2020.

For 2021, tax rate schedule G is projected to trigger for employer contributions. Employer contributions remain estimated to be $2.451 billion and benefit payments projected at $4.821 billion. By the end of 2021, the private contributory account balance is expected to be insolvent at -$4.765 billion. Private contributory employer’s federal unemployment taxes will increase $21 per employee due to outstanding advances at the end of 2020 and 2021 and not paid back by November 10, 2022.

Tax rate schedule G is again projected to trigger for employer contributions on 2022 payrolls. Employer contributions are projected to be $2.530 billion and benefit payments estimated at $2.785 billion. The year-end private contributory balance will continue to be insolvent at -$5.020 billion.

For 2023, employer contributions are expected to remain on tax rate schedule G. Contributions are estimated to be $2.522 billion with benefit payments projected at $1.567 billion. Year-end private contributory balance still insolvent at -$4.065 billion.

In 2024 employer payrolls will remain on tax rate schedule G and generate $2.546 billion in contributions. Benefit payments are expected to be $1.394 billion and a year-end private contributory fund balance at -$2.913 billion.

On May 3, 2020, Massachusetts triggered on the federal/state Extended Benefit (EB) program due to the rapid increase in UI claims. EB costs will be federally funded 100 percent for private contributory and reimbursable employers through week ending December 26, 2020.