



Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance provides temporary cash assistance to qualified unemployed workers who are looking for a job. Benefits are based on past earnings, not on current income. In 2003 an average of 117,000 people each month received unemployment compensation. Benefits averaged \$229 per week.

ELIGIBILITY

Am I Eligible?

YOU MAY be eligible to receive Unemployment Insurance if:

- You are unemployed through no fault of your own;
- You have earned enough wages to qualify for benefits;
- You are available and actively looking for full-time work.

If I Quit My Job, Can I Still Get Benefits?

QUITTING A job does not necessarily make you ineligible for benefits. You may still qualify for benefits if you quit your job with 'good cause'. Some examples of 'good cause' include quitting because of...

- an action by your employer that leaves you no reasonable alternative. Examples are sexual harassment and directives to break the law;
- health problems (yours or a family member's) when you have no reasonable alternative;
- a lack of child care after your employer transfers you to a different shift;
- being transferred to a position paying less than 2/3 of your prior wage;

There are many other kinds of job loss that do not disqualify you. UI can give you more information.

How Much Work Experience Do I Need To Qualify?

ELIGIBILITY DEPENDS on your earnings during a 'base period' - which is a one-year period ending shortly before the date you file your claim. To qualify, you must have earned at least \$1,125 during a single quarter (three-month period) of your base period, at least four times your weekly benefit rate (see below) during the other three quarters, and have total base period wages equal to at least 30 times your weekly benefit rate.

BENEFITS

How Much Can I Receive?

BENEFITS ARE based on your earnings during your base period. In general, your weekly **benefit rate** will be about half of your average weekly earnings during the highest earning quarter of your base period. The maximum weekly benefit rate is \$329.

How Long Can I Get Benefits?

IN MOST cases, you can get benefits for 6 months, as long as you are involuntarily unemployed. During periods of high unemployment, this may be extended. Some people with limited work history are only eligible for a shorter period.

APPLICATION

How Do I Apply?

CALL UNEMPLOYMENT Insurance at 800-822-5246. In Madison, call 608-232-0678; in Milwaukee, call 414-438-7700. Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired persons can call 888-393-8914. More information is available online at www.dwd.state.wi.us/ui/ or www.ucclaim-wi.org.