

MDOL Bureau of Unemployment Compensation Unemployment Insurance

Organization Overview	The Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation is the grant administrator of Unemployment Insurance Program that includes Benefits & Employer Services, and Administrative Hearings to resolve unemployment eligibility and liability disputes.
Program Overview	Unemployment insurance provides a temporary source of financial assistance to individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, while they are seeking new employment. Unemployment Benefits are funded solely by unemployment taxes paid by employers; workers do not pay into the unemployment system. An unemployed individual can apply for unemployment benefits as soon as they become unemployed.
Populations served	Unemployment Insurance protects individuals providing services to a business as employees. However, if someone is unsure whether they would qualify, the department recommends filing an initial claim, even if there is a question as whether an individual may be an independent contractor. Eligibility is determined based on many factors and each claim is unique. Filing an initial claim is the right place to start.
Services	The dollar amount an individual is qualified to receive each week is called the weekly benefit amount. It is based on their earnings during a one-year set period of time prior to their job loss. The weekly benefit amount is reviewed and updated annually. Eligible claimants may also qualify for \$25 per dependent. The dependency allowance can total no more than 75% of the individual's weekly benefit.
Resources	The maximum amount of benefits a claimant may receive during their benefit year is based on prior base period earnings, and a person may collect up to 26 weeks of benefits during their benefit year. As this is an insurance program, individuals must satisfy certain responsibilities each week in which a claim is filed to receive benefits.
Locations, Modalities	Unemployment Benefit services are accessible online or by phone. Employment Services staff have been trained to provide meaningful assistance to claimants who enter One-Stop Centers with inquiries about Unemployment Insurance Claims, and each comprehensive One-Stop provides access to an electronic contact option, which will result in a call-back to the claimant within 24 hours.
Days/ Hours	Claims Representatives are available by phone from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday. 1-800 593-7660
Process to Enroll	An individual will need the following information to file a claim: • Social Security Number (and Alien Work Authorization information if applicable); • The business name, address, and telephone number of <u>each place they worked during the past 18 months</u>; and • The jobs they held and the dates they worked (for each employer). • Veterans separated from the armed forces within the past 18 months will need to provide a copy of their DD-214 form. • Federal civilian employees who have been separated from their employer will be asked to provide their Standard Form (SF) – 8, or SF-50.
Referral Contact for Program	<i>Contact Us</i> page of the Maine Department of Labor website at www.maine.gov/labor ; 1-800 593-7660.