IN GENERAL

This chapter deals with the monetary requirements of state UI laws, including work history, benefit amounts, and the length of time during which a worker may receive UI.

Although the states have developed many different ways to determine monetary entitlement to UI, there are also many similarities. This chapter discusses the following:

- The wages and employment needed in a "base period" to qualify.
- The period during which UI may be collected, commonly called the "benefit year."
- Qualifying wage and employment provisions relating to the base period.
- The amount payable for a week of total or partial unemployment.
- Dependents allowances.
- Waiting periods.
- The maximum amount of regular UI which a worker may receive in a benefit year.

Although this chapter analyzes monetary factors separately, the relationship between these factors is complex. In comparing state laws, consideration often needs to be given to these relationships.

BASE PERIOD AND BENEFIT YEAR

As stated above, a worker's benefit rights are determined using wages and employment during a period of time called the base period. Benefits may be paid during a period of time called the benefit year. Workers who exhaust their benefits before the end of a benefit year must wait until a new benefit year is established before they can again draw benefits.

BENEFIT YEARS—The benefit year is a 1-year or 52-week period during which a worker may receive benefits based on a previous period of employment. In all states, the beginning date of the benefit year depends on when a worker first files a "valid claim," meaning the worker meets minimal wage and employment requirements. In most states, the benefit year begins with the week in which the valid claim is filed. Exceptions are:

	WHEN BENEFIT YEAR BEGINS - OTHER THAN WEEK A FIRST CLAIM IS FILED (3 STATES)
AR	Benefit year begins with the quarter in which a claim is first filed. As a result, the benefit "year" ranges from 40 to 52 weeks.
NY	Benefit year begins on the first Monday after the filing of a valid original claim.
PR	For all agricultural workers, a benefit year begins on a date specified in the law. If an agricultural worker first files a claim toward the end of this uniform benefit year, the worker's benefit rights for that benefit year will expire shortly. Ordinarily, the worker will be eligible for benefits in a new benefit year at the same or a different rate.

BASE PERIODS—The base period is the time period during which wages earned and/or hours/weeks worked are examined to determine a worker's monetary entitlement to UI. Almost all states use the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters preceding the filing of the claim as their base period. (Although Nebraska has no law provisions on this matter, its regulations establish its base period as the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters). Massachusetts uses the four completed calendar quarters preceding the first day of the benefit year.

Because base period employment and/or earnings are an imperfect proxy for labor market attachment, there are instances when workers with labor market attachment are ineligible for UI benefits. To address this, some states developed expanded definitions of the base period.

Alternative Base Periods (ABP)—A base period consisting of the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters results in a lag of up to 6 months between the end of the base period and the date a worker becomes unemployed/files a claim. As a result, the worker's most recent work history is not used when making an eligibility determination. As a result, several states use an ABP for workers failing to qualify under the regular base period. For example, if the worker fails to qualify using wages and employment in the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters, then the state will use wages and employment in the last 4 completed calendar quarters.

Extended Base Periods (EBP)—Several states allow workers who have no wages in the current base period to use older wages and employment under certain conditions. These conditions typically involve illness or injury. For example, a worker who was injured on the job and who has collected worker's compensation benefits may use wages and employment preceding the date of the worker's injury to establish eligibility. (Note that some state laws may describe these base periods as "alternative" base periods.)

The following table outlines the options in addition to the standard base period that states use.

	ALTERNATIVE AND EXT	ENDED E	BASE PERIODS (32 STATES)
State	ABP/EBP	State	ABP/EBP
AK	EBP: BP extended up to 4 quarters if claimant was incapable of working during the greater part of a quarter.	NV	EBP: Last 4 quarters preceding BY if 1 quarter has been used in a previous determination, extend the BY up to 1 week if there would otherwise be overlapping of the same quarter in 2 consecutive BPs.
AZ	EBP: Last 4 completed quarters following previous BP when new BY overlaps preceding BY. Also, first 4 of last 5 completed quarters preceding the week a compensable industrial injury began if not qualified under normal base period, if claim is filed within 2 years of beginning of disability.	NH	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
CT	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters. 1/ EBP: Last 4 completed quarters preceding sickness or disability. 1/	NJ	ABP: BP may be one of two alternatives if a worker fails to meet qualifying wage requirements: (1) last 4 completed quarters or (2) last 3 completed quarters, plus any weeks of work in quarter in which claim is filed.
GA	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters. 2/	NM	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
HI	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.	NY	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
ID	EBP: A worker who experienced a temporary total disability may elect a BP of the first 4 of the last 5 completed quarters preceding the disability if the worker filed a claim within 3 years of the disability and no longer than 6 months after the end of the disability.	NC	EBP: Up to 4 quarters, if worker has insufficient wages to establish a claim because of a job related injury for which the worker received workers' compensation. ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
IL	EBP: BP extended up to 1 year if the claimant received temporary total disability under a workers' compensation act or occupational diseases act.	ОН	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
IN	EBP: Up to 4 quarters preceding the last day the worker was able to work.	OK	EBP: 4 quarters prior to regular base period.
IA	EBP: BP extended 3 or more quarters if the worker received workers' compensation or weekly indemnity insurance benefits for 3 or more quarters.	PA	EBP: Last 4 completed quarters immediately preceding the date of the injury if the worker was eligible for workers' compensation during the worker's current BP.

	ALTERNATIVE AND EXTR	ENDED B	BASE PERIODS (32 STATES)
State	ABP/EBP	State	ABP/EBP
KS	EBP: Last 4 completed quarters preceding the date of qualifying injury.	RI	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
KY	EBP: BP extended up to 4 quarters, if a worker due to job-related injury or if a worker who has received worker's compensation files an UI claim within 4 weeks after having received worker's compensation.	SD	EBP: A worker who received temporary total disability payments under a workers' compensation law may use a BP of the first 4 of the last 5 completed quarters preceding the disability, if a claim is filed within 24 months of the date the disability was incurred.
ME	EBP: BP extended up to 4 quarters if 1 quarter has been used in a previous determination, extend the BY up to 1 week if there would otherwise be overlapping of the same quarter in 2 consecutive BPs. ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.	TX	EBP: If an initial claim is filed within 24 months from the date a worker's illness or injury began or occurred, the BP will be the first 4 of the last 5 completed quarters preceding the illness or injury.
MA	EBP: BP extended to 52 weeks if claimant received compensation for temporary total disability under a worker's compensation law for more than 7 weeks in BP.	VA	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
	ABP: Last 3 quarters, plus any weeks of work in quarter in which claim is filed. (Worker may also elect to use this ABP if it results in a 10% or more increase in WBA.)		
MI	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters if individual fails to meet qualifying wage requirements.	VT	ABP: One of two alternatives: (1) last 4 quarters, or, if still ineligible, (2) last 3 quarters plus any weeks of work in quarter in which claim is filed.
MN	EBP: Up to 4 quarters depending on length of time a worker received compensation for temporary disability under a worker's compensation law.	WA	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
MT	EBP: Up to 4 quarters preceding the disability if the claim was filed within 24 months from the date of the worker's disability.	WI	ABP: Last 4 completed quarters.
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<u>4</u> / F10	ivision is active from January 1, 2005 until June 50, 2004.		

QUALIFYING WAGES OR EMPLOYMENT

All states require a worker to have earned a certain amount of wages or to have worked for a certain period of time (or both) within the base period to be monetarily eligible to receive any UI benefits. However, the methods that states use to make this determination vary greatly.

MULTIPLE OF THE WEEKLY BENEFIT OR HIGH-QUARTER WAGES

Multiple of High-Quarter Wages—Under this method, workers must earn a certain dollar amount in the quarter with the highest earnings of their base period. Workers must also earn total base-period wages that are a multiple—typically 1.5 of the high quarter wages. For example, if a worker earns \$5,000 in the high quarter, the worker must earn another \$2,500 in the rest of the base period. States require earnings in more than one quarter to minimize the likelihood that workers with high earnings in only one quarter receive benefits. Although monetarily eligible, those workers wouldn't be substantially attached to the labor market.

Multiple of Weekly Benefit Amount—Under this method, the state first computes the worker's weekly benefit amount. The worker must have earned a multiple—often 40—of this amount during the base period. For example, if a worker's weekly benefit amount equals \$100, then the worker will need base period earnings of 40 times \$100—or \$4,000—before any UI would be paid. Most states also require wages in at least two quarters. Some states have weighted schedules that require varying multiples for varying weekly benefits.

The following table provides information on the qualifying formulas used by states that utilize a "multiple" method:

	WAGES I FOR MI BEN			
State	Wages	Distribution of wages	Base period \$	High quarter \$
AL	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	1,602	1,068
AZ	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement is: wages in 2 quarters of BP, wages in 1 quarter sufficient to qualify for the maximum WBA and total BP wages equal to or greater than the taxable wage base (\$7,000).	2 quarters.	1,500	1,000
AR	27 x WBA.	2 quarters.	1,701	1,638
CA	Either \$1,300 in HQ or \$900 in HQ with BP wages equal to 1.25 x HQ.		1,125	900
СО	40 x WBA or \$2,500, whichever is greater.		2,500	
CT	40 x WBA.	2 quarters.	600	150
DE	36 x WBA; if claimant failed to meet qualifying requirement for WBA computed on HQW but does meet the qualifying requirement for next lower bracket, is eligible for lower WBA, 5 brackets.		965	
DC	1-1/2 x HQW; \$1,300 in 1 qtr., at least \$1,950 in 2 qtrs.	2 quarters.	1,950	1,300
FL	1-1/2 x HQW; minimum of \$3,400 in 2 qtrs.	2 quarters.	3,400	850
GA	150% of HQW or 40 x WBA; wages in 2 quarters of BP.	2 quarters.	1,600	920
HI	26 x WBA.	2 quarters.	130	32
ID	1-1/4 x HQW; the minimum qualifying amount of wages (will be determined on July 1 and must equal 50% of the state minimum wages multiplied by 520 hrs.) in 1 quarter of the BP and total BP wages of at least 1-1/4 x HQ wages.	2 quarters.	1,657	1,326
IA	HQ 3.5% of the statewide AAW and 1-1/4 times the HQ; ½ of HQW in a quarter outside of HQ.	2 quarters.	1,500	1,000
KS	30 x WBA.	2 quarters.	2,610	653
KY	1-1/2 x HQW.	8 x WBA in last 2 quarters and \$750 outside HQ.	2,983	750
LA	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	1,200	800
MD	1-1/2 x HQW; If claimant failed to meet qualifying requirement for WBA computed on HQW but does meet the qualifying requirement for next lower bracket, is eligible for lower WBA, stepdown of 6 brackets; The multiple (1-1/2) is not applied to the worker's HQW, but the qualifying amount, shown in a schedule, is computed at the upper limit of each wage bracket (assuming a normal interval at the maximum benefit amount).	2 quarters.	864	576
MA	26 x WBA.		3,000	
MI	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement 14 weeks employment and BP wages equal to 20 times the state AWW.	2 quarters.	2,997	1,998
MN	\$1,000 in HQ and \$250 in remaining 3 quarters.	2 quarters.	1,250	1,000
MS	40 x WBA.	2 quarters.	1,200	780
МО	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement is: wages in 2 quarters of BP of 1-1/2 x	2 quarters.	1,500	1,000
MT	maximum taxable wage base for that year, or \$1,000 in 1 quarter. (1) 1-1/2 x HQW with total BP wages equal to or greater than 7% of the AAW, or (2) 50% of AAW.	2 quarters.	1,773	1,182
NV	of AAW. 1-1/2 x HQW or wages in 3 of the 4 quarters in the BP.	2 quarters.	600	400

	MULTIPLE OF WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT/HIGH QUARTER (42 STATES)						
State	Wages	Distribution	Base period \$	High			
NM	1-1/4 x HQW.	of wages 2 quarters.	1,799	quarter \$ 1,439			
14141	1 1/4 X 11Q 11.	2 quarters.	1,777	1,437			
NY	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	2,400	1,600			
NC	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	3,749	936			
ND	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	2,795	1,863			
OK	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement \$10,500 in BP.	2 quarters.	1,500	1,000			
OR	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement 500 hrs. of employment in the BP.	2 quarters.	1,000	666			
PR	40 x WBA; if claimant failed to meet qualifying requirement for WBA computed on HQW but does meet the qualifying requirement for next lower bracket, is eligible for lower WBA, unlimited stepdown provision. PR has a flat qualifying requirement for agricultural workers.	2 quarters.	280	75			
RI	1-1/2 x HQW; 200 x minimum hourly wages in 1 quarter and BP wages of 1-1/2 x HQ, however, the BP wages must be at least 400 x the minimum hourly wage.	2 quarters.	2,700	1,800			
SC	1-1/2 x HQW.	2 quarters.	900	540			
SD	20 x WBA must be outside high quarter.	20 x WBA outside HQ.	1,288	728			
TN	40 x WBA.	6 x WBA or \$900 outside HQ.	1,560	780			
TX	37 x WBA.	2 quarters.	1,961	1,300.25			
UT	1-1/2 x HQW or 20 weeks of insured work, with 5% of the monetary BP wage requirement (8% of state average fiscal year wages in BP, rounded to the higher \$100) in each week.	2 quarters.	2,500	1,666			
VT	\$1,707 in a quarter and BP wages of at least 40% of the total HQ wages, also the HQ wages will be adjusted by a percentage increase equal to the percentage increase in the state minimum wage for the prior year.	2 quarters.	2,390	1,707			
VA	50 x WBA.	2 quarters.	2,500				
VI	1-1/2 x HQW; alternative flat-amount requirement \$858 in HQ and 39 x WBA in BP.	2 quarters.	1,287	858			
WI	30 x WBA.	4 x WBA outside HQ.	1,470	1,225			
WY	1.4 x HQW.	2 quarters.	2,200	1,760			

FLAT QUALIFYING AMOUNT

States using this method require a certain dollar amount of total wages to be earned during the base period. This method is used by most states with an annual-wage requirement for determining the weekly benefit and by some states with a high-quarter-wage/weekly benefit requirement. Information about states that use a flat qualifying amount is found in the table below.

	FLAT QUALI	IFYING FORMULA (7 STATES)	WAGES NEED FOR	MINIMUM BENEFIT
State	Wages	Distribution of wages	Base period \$	High quarter \$
AK	Flat	2 quarters.	1,000	
IL	Flat	\$440 in quarter outside HQ.	1,600	1,160
IN	Flat	\$1,650 in last 2 quarters; total BPW = 1.25 x HQW.	2,750	1,019

	FLAT QUALI	IFYING FORMULA (7 STATES)	WAGES NEED FOR	R MINIMUM BENEFIT
State	Wages	Distribution of wages	Base period \$	High quarter \$
ME	Flat	2 x AWW in each of 2 different quarters with total wages of 6 x AWW.	3,376	
NE	Flat	\$800 in each of 2 quarters.	1,600	800
NH	Flat	\$1,400 in each of 2 quarters.	2,800	
WV	Flat	2 quarters.	2,200	

WEEKS/HOURS OF EMPLOYMENT

Under this method, the worker must have worked a certain number of weeks/hours at certain weekly/hourly wage.

	WEEKS/HOURS QUALIFYING FORMULA (4 STATES)								
State	Employment	Wages	Distribution of wages	Base	High				
				period \$	quarter \$				
NJ	20 weeks at 20 x minimum wage; or 1000 times the state minimum hourly wage, or 770 hours in the production and harvesting of agricultural crops.	20% of state AWW.	2 quarters.	2,060					
ОН	20 weeks, with wages averaging 27.5% of the state AWW	•	2 quarters.	3,520					
PA	16 weeks.	37-40 x WBA.	2 quarters.	1,320	800				
WA	680 hours.		2-3 quarters.						

QUALIFYING FOR A SECOND BENEFIT YEAR

Since the standard base period established by the states' laws results in a significant lag between the end of the base period and the establishment of a benefit year, a worker could conceivably use lag-period wages and employment to qualify for 2 consecutive benefit years during one long unemployment spell (after benefits are exhausted and the first benefit year ended). As a result, all states limit the use of lag-period wages for the purpose of establishing a second benefit year. They all require intervening employment between the wages earned during the lag period and the commencement of a new benefit year. In short, workers must earn wages after the beginning of the first benefit year-either in addition to any lag period wages or as part of the usual base-period wages needed to establish a benefit year. In many states the amount a worker must earn in order to establish a second benefit year is expressed as a multiple (from 3 to 10) of the weekly benefit amount. A few states require a worker to earn wages sufficient to meet the minimum qualifying requirement. In addition, some states specify that the wages needed to requalify must be earned in covered employment.

	WAGES NEEDED TO ESTABLISH NEW BENEFIT YEAR (AMOUNT TIMES WBA UNLESS INDICATED)											
State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work	State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work			
AL	8			X	NE			Insured work in 4 weeks.	X			
AK	8				NV	3						
AZ	8				NH <u>1</u> /							

	WAGES NEEL	DED TO ESTAI	BLISH NEW B	ENEFIT YE	EAR (AM	OUNT TIMES W	BA UNLESS I	(NDICATED)	
State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work	State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work
AR	3			X	NJ	4 weeks of employment.			
CA			Equivalent qualifying wages as in preceding BY.		NM	5			
CO	\$2,000				NY	5			
CT	5, or \$300, whichever is greater.			X	NC	10			X
DE	8	10		X	ND		10 <u>2</u> /		X
DC	10				ОН			3 x AWW and covered employ- ment in 6 weeks.	
FL	3				OK	10			X
GA	10			X	OR	6			
HI	5				PA	6			
ID	5-1/2; wages must be in bona fide work.				PR	3; for at least one CQ; but not < \$50.			X
IL	3				RI	80 x the minimum hourly wage.			
IN	8			X	SC	8			Insured work; must be with a single employer
IA	\$250			X	SD	4			X
KS	8			X	TN	5			X
KY			8; last 2 quarters of BP.		TX	6			
LA	6; or 3/13th of HQW, whichever is lesser.		2	X	UT	6			X
ME	8			X	VT	4			
MD	10			X	VA	30 days work or 240 hours.			
MA	3				VI	6			
MI <u>1</u> /					WA	6			
MN	8			X	WV	8			X

	WAGES NEEDED TO ESTABLISH NEW BENEFIT YEAR (AMOUNT TIMES WBA UNLESS INDICATED)										
State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work	State	Subsequent to beginning of preceding benefit year	Subsequent to date of last valid claim	Other	Wages must be in insured work		
MS	8			X	WI	8			X		
МО		5; 10 x WBA in non-covered work.		X	WY	8					
MT	6; or 3/13th of HQW, whichever is lesser.			X							

^{1/} No additional requirement since the lag period, if any, between BP and BY is too short to qualify for a second BY.

BENEFITS BASED ON WORK WHEN MORE THAN ONE STATE IS INVOLVED

Benefits Based on Work in a State Other than the One Where the Claims is Filed—When a worker regularly commutes to a different state for work or moves to a different state to find work, the circumstances necessitate the ability to file a claim in a state in which you do not have base period or more recent earnings. The Interstate Benefit Payment Plan permits payment of UI benefits from the state in which a worker has qualifying wages even though the worker is not physically present in that state. Determinations on eligibility, disqualifications, and the amount and duration of benefits are made by the state where the wages were paid.

Benefits Based on Work in More Than One State—Often, workers who work in more than one state during the base period will not have sufficient wages in any one state in which they worked to become monetarily eligible to receive UI benefits or would be eligible for only a small weekly benefit amount. As a result, since 1970, federal law has required states to participate in a wage-combining arrangement. Under this arrangement, the worker elects to combine the wages earned in two or more states into a single claim. The law of a single state - the state in which the claim is filed - is used to determine eligibility. For example, if the worker has earned wages in Illinois and Indiana, the worker may elect to file a combined wage claim using Illinois' law if the claim is filed in Illinois. Because of the potential of subsequently establishing more than one benefit year in more than one state, federal regulations stipulate that, wages transferred from one state to a second state for use in establishing a financially eligible combined wage claim in that second "paying" state can not be used twice to establish monetary eligibility.

WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT

After determining if a worker has sufficient wages and/or employment to qualify for UI benefits, it is necessary to determine what the weekly benefit amount - the amount payable for a week of total unemployment - will be. As previously mentioned, UI is intended to provide partial wage replacement. For this reason, all workers do not receive the same benefit amount. States replace, on average, 50% of workers' lost wages up to a certain limit (usually the average weekly wage in the state). As a result, states tend to replace a higher percentage of low wage workers income than they do for high wage workers. All state laws use base period wages to determine what the weekly benefit amount will be. Several states provide dependents allowances. All states round weekly benefits to an even dollar amount.

States determine eligibility for UI on the basis of the calendar week (Sunday through the following Saturday). In many states, the claims week is adjusted to coincide with the employer's payroll week when a worker files a benefit claim for partial unemployment.

^{2/} Does not apply to employment by a partnership, corporation, or limited liability company if, at the time claim is filed, ownership interest has been ceded.

METHODS OF COMPUTING WEEKLY BENEFITS

As with qualifying wages, states utilize a variety of methods to determine a worker's weekly benefit amount.

High-Quarter Method—More than half the states determine the weekly benefit amount by using the base period quarter in which wages were highest. This quarter is viewed as the period most nearly reflecting full-time work for the worker. By dividing this amount by 13 - the number of weeks in a calendar quarter - the average weekly wage is calculated. Based on the percent of the weekly wage the state intends to replace, the weekly wage is divided and the weekly benefit amount is calculated. For example, a worker who earns \$2,600 in the high quarter has an average weekly wage of \$200 a week (\$2,600 divided by 13). If the state replaces ½ of the average weekly earnings, the weekly benefit amount is \$100. To simplify the calculations, states determine the "overall" multiple of the high quarter wages to determine the weekly benefit amount. In the above example, it would be 1/26 (1/13 times ½) (Note that this formula is used by all states also using a multiple of high-quarter wages to establish a benefit year.) 1/26 is the most common multiple used by states.

Since even the quarter of highest earnings may include some unemployment, some states use a fraction generating a higher weekly benefit (e.g., 1/23). Some states use a weighted schedule, which gives a greater proportion of the high-quarter wages to lower-paid workers than to those earning more. In these states, the maximum fraction varies from 1/11 to 1/26 while the minimum varies from 1/23 to 1/33.

In Pennsylvania, a worker's weekly benefit amount is based on a weighted schedule, or 50 percent of the worker's full-time wage, if that amount is greater. Iowa's benefit schedule is a variation of this concept in which the fraction of high-quarter wages used ranges from 1/19 to 1/23, depending on the number of dependents the worker has.

	HIGH-QUARTER FO	Miı	nimum wag	e credits requir	red			
					For minimu	m WBA	For maxim	um WBA
State	Method of computing	Rounding to	Minimum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	Maximum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	High quarter \$	Base period \$
AZ	1/25	Nearest \$	40	205	1,000	1,500	5,113	7,000
AR	1/26	Lower \$	63; minimum computed annually at 12% of AWW.	345	1,638	1,701	8,970	9,315
CA	1/23-1/33. If HQ wages exceed \$4,966.99, the maximum WBA will be 39 percent of these wages divided by 13.	Higher \$	40	370	900	1,125	9,594.01	11,993
СО	60% of 1/26 of 2 highest consec. quarters, capped by 50% of avg. weekly earnings (low formula). If max allowed under this formula is met, a 2 nd formula is applied. 50% of 52 weeks of earnings, capped by 55% of avg. weekly earnings (high formula) Claimant receives the higher of the two amounts.	Lower \$	25	361 (low formula) 398 (high formula)	1,084 for the 2 consecutive quarters combined. 2	2,500	15,643.34 for the 2 consecutive quarters combined	15,643.34 2
DC	1/26 + DA.	Lower \$	50	309	1,300	1,950	8,034	12,051
FL	1/26	Lower \$	32	275	850	3,400	7,150	10,725
HI	1/21	Higher \$	5	417	32	130	8,736	10,842

	HIGH-QUARTER FO	RMULA (33	STATES)				ge credits requi	
				1 34 :	For minim		For maxim	
State	Method of computing	Rounding to	Minimum weekly benefit 1/\$	Maximum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	High quarter \$	Base period \$
ID	1/26	Lower \$	51	320	1,326	1,657	8,294	10,368
IN	Computed as 5% of the first \$2,000 in HQ wages and 4 % of the remaining HQ wages.	Lower \$	50	348	1,019	2,750	8,216 (\$8,733 after July 1, 2004)	10,250
IA	1/19 - 1/23	Lower \$	44 - 54	300 - 368	1,000	1,500	7,081	8,851
KS	4.25%	Lower \$	87; minimum computed annually at 25% of maximum WBA.	351	653	2,610	8,258.83	10,530
ME	1/22 + DA.	Lower \$	51 - 76	292 - 438		3,376		12,848
MD	1/24 + DA.	Higher \$	25 - 65	310; same maximum with or without dependents.	576	864	7,416	11,160
MA	1/21-1/26	Lower \$	29 - 43	508 - 762		3,000		15,240
MI	4.1%	Lower \$	81 - 111	362	1,998	2,997	7,318	10,977
MN	The higher of 50% of the worker's AWW in the BP to a max. of 66-2/3% of the state AWW, or 50% of the worker's AWW during the HQ to a max. of 45% of the state's AWW.	Lower \$	38	478	1,000	1,250	8,398	12,428
MS	1/26	Lower \$	30	210	780	1,200	5,460	8,400
МО	4.0%	Lower \$	40	250	1,000	1,500	6,250	9,375
NV	1/25	Lower \$	16	317	400	600	7,925	11,887
NM	52.5% of AWW of HQ.	Lower \$	58; minimum computed an- nually at 10% of AWW.	290	1,439	1,799	7,181	8,976
NY	1/26; 1/25 if less than \$3,575.	Nearest \$	40	405	1,600	2,400	10,530	15,795
NC	1/26	Lower \$	36	416	936	3,749	10,816	16,224
ОК	1/23	Lower \$	16	275	1,000	1,500	6,875	10,313
PA	1/23 - 1/25	Lower \$	35 - 43	461 - 469	800	1,320	11,463	18,360
PR	1/11 - 1/26	Lower \$	7	133	75	280	3,442	5,320
RI	4.62%	Lower \$	56-106	441 - 551	1,800	2,700	9,545	14,318
SC	1/26	Lower \$	20	285	540	900	7,410	11,115
SD	1/26	Lower \$	28	248	728	1,288	6,448	11408
TX	1/25	Higher \$	53	330	1,300	1,961	8,225	12,210
		1	1	1	1		1	1

	HIGH-QUARTER FO	RMULA (33	STATES)		Mir	Minimum wage credits required			
		For minimum WBA For maximum WBA							
State	Method of computing	Rounding to	Minimum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	Maximum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	
VI	1/26	Lower \$	32	471	858	1,287	12,246	18,369	
WI	4.0%	Nearest \$	49; minimum computed twice yearly; 19% of max. WBA.	329	1,225	1,470	8,225	9,870	
WY	4.0%	Lower \$	22	306	1,760	2,200	7,650	25,500	

^{1/} When 2 amounts are given, higher figure includes dependents allowance. Augmented amount for minimum WBA includes allowance for 1 dependent child. Augmented amount for maximum WBA includes allowances for maximum number of dependents.

Multi-Quarter Method—Under this method, the weekly benefit amount is calculated as a multiple of the average quarterly wages paid in more than one quarter. This approach is viewed as being more likely to reflect a worker's usual full-time employment pattern since it surveys a greater period of time rather than just focusing on the quarter with highest earnings.

	MULTI-QUART			credits required				
			nimum	For max	1			
State	Method of computing	Rounding to	Minimum weekly benefit <u>1</u> /\$	Maximum weekly benefit 1/\$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	High quarter \$	Base period \$
AL	1/24	Higher \$	45	210	1,068	1,602	5,028	7,542
СТ	1/26; WBA for covered construction workers is computed as 1/26 of HQ wages but not less than \$15.	Lower \$	15 - 30	429 - 504	150	600	11,154	17,160
DE	1/46 of wages earned in highest 2 quarters.	Lower \$	20	330		965		15,180
GA	1/46; computed as 1/23 of HQ wages when alternative qualifying wages are used.	Lower \$	40	300	920	1,600	6,900	12,000
IL	48% of the claimant's wages in highest 2 quarters divided by 26.	Next higher \$	51-56	326 - 438	1,160	1,600		17,069
LA	1/25 of the 4 quarters of the BP.	Lower \$	10	258; maximum WBA is com- puted annually at 66 2/3% of state- wide AWW.	800	1,200	16,562	24,843
ND	1/65 of total wages earned in highest 2 quarters and ½ of total wages in third quarter.	Lower \$	43	312	1,863	2,795	17,160	25,740
TN <u>2</u> /	1/26	Lower \$	30	275	780	1,560	7,150	14,300
VT	Computed as wages in the 2 highest quarters divided by 45 (not to exceed the maximum WBA)	Nearest \$	42	359	1,707	2,390	2 highest quarters divided by 45 (not to exceed the maximum WBA)	16,155
VA	1/50	Higher \$	50	316		2,500		15,800

^{2.} These amounts are correct for the low formula only. High formula does not consider quarterly figures.

	MULTI-QUART	Minimum wage credits required						
		For minimum For maximum						
State	Method of computing	Rounding	Minimum	Maximum weekly	High	Base	High	Base
		to	weekly benefit	benefit <u>1</u> /\$	quarter \$	period \$	quarter \$	period
			<u>1</u> /\$					\$
WA	1/25	Lower \$	109; minimum	496	2,350	4,700	11,025	22,050
			computed					
			15% of AWW.					

^{1/} When 2 amounts are given, higher figure includes dependents allowance. Augmented amount for minimum WBA includes allowance for 1 dependent child. Augmented amount for maximum WBA includes allowances for maximum number of dependents.

Annual-Wage Method—Several states compute the weekly benefit as a percentage of annual wages in the base period. This approach reflects the view that annual wages determine the worker's standard of living. Most states use a weighted schedule which gives a larger proportion of annual wages to the lower-paid workers to determine their weekly benefit amount.

	ANNUAL-W		Minimum wage credits required					
		For mi	nimum	For maximum				
State	Method of computing	Rounding to	Minimum weekly benefit 1/\$	Maximum weekly benefit 1/\$	High quarter \$	Base period \$	High quarter \$	Base period \$
AK	0.9% - 4.4%	Nearest \$	44 - 68	248-320		1,000		26,500
KY	1.3078%	Nearest \$	39	365	750	2,983	17,383	26,075
МТ	1.0% BP wages or 1.9% of wages in highest 2 qtrs.	Lower \$	73; minimum computed annually at 15% of AWW.	323	1,182	1,773		32,300
NH	1.0% - 1.1%	Nearest \$	32	372		2,800		36,500
OR	1.25%	Lower \$	96; minimum computed annually at 15% of AWW.	410	666	1,000	21,866	32,800
WV	1% of median wages in worker's wage class.	Lower \$	24	\$358		2,200		33,850

¹/ When 2 amounts are given, higher figure includes dependents allowance. Augmented amount for minimum WBA includes allowance for 1 dependent child. Augmented amount for maximum WBA includes allowances for maximum number of dependents.

Average-Weekly-Wage Formula—Several states compute the weekly benefit as a percentage of the worker's average weekly wages in the base period.

	AVERAGE-WEEKLY-W	Minimum wage credits required						
	, 2 , , 22	For minimum For maximum			ximum			
State	Method of computing	Rounding	Minimum	Maximum	High	Base	High	Base
		to	weekly benefit	weekly benefit	quarter	period \$	quarter \$	period \$
			<u>1</u> / \$	<u>1</u> / \$	\$			
NE	¹∕2 AWW.	Lower \$	36	280	800	1,600	7,280	8,080
NJ	60% + DA.	Lower \$	61-77	490; same maximum with or without dependents.		2,060		16,363
ОН	50% + DA.	Lower \$	90	323 - 436		3,520		12,920

^{1/} When 2 amounts are given, higher figure includes dependents allowance. Augmented amount for minimum WBA includes allowance for 1 dependent child. Augmented amount for maximum WBA includes allowances for maximum number of dependents.

^{2/} A worker will not be eligible for benefits if the BP earnings outside HQ are less than the lesser of 6 x WBA or \$900.

AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENTS TO WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNTS

In those states where UI is intended to replace a specific percent of wages up to a fixed percent of the state's average weekly wage, the calculation of benefit entitlement is determined by the state's average weekly wage. Because wages increase, states recalculate the average weekly wage periodically to update the benefits schedule and continue to replace the desired percent of a worker's lost wages. The maximum weekly benefit amount is usually more than 50 percent of the average weekly wage in covered employment within the state during a recent 1-year period. In most states, the minimum weekly benefit is an amount specified in the law. However, some states' laws link the minimum weekly benefit amount with their average weekly wage as well. The following table includes information only for states that link the minimum weekly benefit amount with their average weekly wage.

		Al	UTOMATI	IC ADJUSTMEN	NT TO BENE	FITS AMOUNTS (34 STATES)		
		Met	hod of Con	nputation				
		% of AWW inployment in:		Semiannually a in covered em		% of state AWW		
State	Preceding CY	12 months ending March 31	months ending June 30	12 months ending 6 months before effective date	All industries in state	Maximum	Minimum	Effective date of new amounts
AR	X					55 (high formula)	50 (low formula)	July 1
СО					X	55		July 1
СТ			X			60; based on AWW of production and related workers. May not be increased by more than \$18 in any year.		1 st Sunday in Oct.
DC		X				50		Jan. 1
HI			X			70		Jan. 1
ID	X					60		1 st Sunday in July
IL	X					49.5; for claimants with dependents, maximum is limited to 66-2/3% of state's AWW, which is based on percentage changes from year to year. Maximum for claimants with dependents is limited to 65.5% of state's AWW.		Jan. 1
IA	X					53; for claimants with no dependents. For claimants with dependents, ranges from 55 to 65%.		1 st Sunday in July
KS	X					60	25% of max WBA	July 1
KY	X					62; cannot increase in any year when tax schedule increases from previous year. Year-to-year increases limited depending on fund balance.		July 1
LA		X				66-2/3		Sept. 1
ME	X					52		June 1
MA		X				57.5		1 st Sunday in Oct.

		Al	UTOMATI	IC ADJUSTMEN	NT TO BENE	FITS AMOUNTS (34 STATES)		
			hod of Con	•		0/ -f -t-t- AWW		
		% of AWW inployment in:		Semiannually a in covered em		% of state AWW		
State	Preceding CY	12 months ending March 31	12 months ending June 30	12 months ending 6 months before effective date	All industries in state	Maximum	Minimum	Effective date of new amounts
MN	X					Higher of 50% of the worker's AWW in the BP to a maximum of 66-2/3% of the state AWW; or 50% of the worker's AWW during the HQ to a maximum of 50% of the state AWW, or \$331, whichever is higher.		August 1
MT	X					66.5	15	July 1
NV	X					50		July 1
NJ	X					56-2/3		Jan. 1
NM			X			52.5	10	1 st Sunday in Jan.
NC	X					66-2/3		August 1
ND	X					62; 65% of state AWW if trust fund reserves on Oct. 1 are equal to or greater than the required amount and the state's average contribution rate is below the nationwide average for the preceding year.		1 st Sunday in July
ОН			X			Percentage used is not specified by law.		1 st Sunday in Jan.
OK	X					The greater of \$197 or 60%, 57.7%, 55%, 52.5% or 50% of state AWW of the second preceding CY, depending on the condition of the fund.		July 1
OR	X					64	15	Week of
PA			X			66-2/3		July 4 Jan. 1
PR	X					50		July 1
RI	X					67		July 1
SC	X					66-2/3		July 1
SD	X					50		July 1
UT			X			65		Jan. 1
VT	X					Percentage not specified by law.		1 st Sunday in July
VI			X			50		Jan. 1
WA	X					70	15	1 st Sunday in July
WV	X					66-2/3		July 1
WY	X					55	4	July 1

WAITING PERIOD

Workers who are otherwise eligible for benefits must first serve a waiting period in most states. In most states, the waiting-period requirement for weeks of partial unemployment is the same as for weeks of total unemployment. The waiting period is served in or with respect to a particular benefit year. Special provisions may exist for successive benefit years. (When a worker, after intervening employment, has an additional spell of unemployment that continues beyond the end of the first benefit year, the worker may not have to serve another waiting week if he is monetarily eligible for benefits in the second year.)

		INITIAL	WAITING PERIOD IN W	VEEKS (40 STATES)		
State	Total unemployment	Partial unemployment	In new benefit year	State	Total unemployment	Partial unemployment	In new benefit year
AL			Not to interrupt consecutive weeks of benefits. Waiting-period must be served if, later in the new benefit year, the worker, after obtaining employment, again becomes unemployed.	NE	1	1	
AK	1	1		NM	1	1	
AZ	1	1		NY	1	2	
AR	1	1		NC	1; Waived for major industrial disasters.	1	
CA	1; Waiting period may the Governor if comp prevent, hinder or del- the effects of any state emergency or state of	liance would ay the mitigation of e-of-war	Not to interrupt consecutive weeks of benefits. Waiting-period must be served if, later in the new benefit year, the worker, after obtaining employment, again becomes unemployed. May be served in last week of old year.	ND	1	1	
СО	1	1		ОН	1; Waived if unemployed due to major disaster declared by the President.	1	
DC	1	1		OK	1	1	
FL	1	1		OR	1	1	
HI	1	1		PA	1	1	
ID	1	1		PR	1		1
IL	1	1	May be served in last week of old BY.	RI	1; waiting period if the unemploymentural disaster or emergency.	ent is due to a	
IN	1	1		SC	1	1	
KS	1	1	1	SD	1	ļ.	1
LA	1	1		TN	1; becomes compe consecutive week unemployment im following waiting	s of compensable mediately	

	INITIAL WAITING PERIOD IN WEEKS (40 STATES)											
State	Total unemployment	Partial unemployment	In new benefit year	State	Total unemployment	Partial unemployment	In new benefit year					
ME	1	1		TX	1; compensable after benefits equaling 3							
MA	1	1		UT	1; exempt for one period where the v approved mandato related training.							
MN	1; waiting period will claimant would have be disaster benefits, but fi establishment of a clai		VA	1; if unemployme employer terminat closing its busines bankruptcy withou wages earned.	ing operations, s or declaring							
MS	1	1		VI	1	1						
МО	1; becomes compensal consecutive weeks of unemployment follow		WA	1	1							
MT	1	1		WV	1	1						

STATES WITH NO WAITING PERIODS (14 STATES)								
Alabama	Connecticut	Delaware						
Georgia	Iowa	Kentucky						
Maryland	Michigan	Nevada						
New Hampshire	North Carolina (only for workers affected by major industrial disaster)	Wisconsin						
Vermont	Wyoming (for claims filed between July 2, 2002 and June 30, 2005)							

BENEFITS FOR PARTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Often, instead of being laid off, workers may have their hours reduced during an economic downturn. Or, unemployed workers may find short-term work while looking for a permanent, full-time job. These circumstances characterize partial unemployment. The UI system is set up to permit benefit receipt by these workers as long as they meet all eligibility requirements. However, the weekly benefit amount payable differs.

A week of total unemployment is commonly defined as a week in which the worker performs no work and with respect to which remuneration is not payable. In Puerto Rico, a worker is deemed totally unemployed if earnings from self-employment are less than 1-1/2 the weekly benefit amount or if no service is performed for a working period of 32 hours or more in a week. In a few states, a worker is considered totally unemployed in a week even though certain small amounts of wages are earned. In most states, a worker is partially unemployed in a week of less than full time work and earnings of less than the weekly benefit amount. In some states, a worker is partially unemployed in a week of less than full-time work when less than the weekly benefit amount plus an allowance is earned, either from odd-job earnings or from any source as indicated in the table below.

The worker's UI payment will generally equal the difference between the weekly benefit amount and earnings. All states disregard some earnings as an inducement to take short-time work.

When determining monetary entitlement to benefits, the state usually specifies a maximum dollar amount that can be received-- usually equal to a specified number of weeks of benefits for total unemployment multiplied by the weekly benefit amount for total unemployment. Consequently, a partially unemployed worker may draw benefits for a

greater number of weeks than a totally unemployed worker.

Most state laws provide that the benefit for a week of partial unemployment will be rounded to the nearest or the lower dollar. For example, in a state with a \$30 earnings disregard and rounding to the nearest dollar, a worker with a \$40 weekly benefit amount and earnings of \$50.95 would receive a partial benefit of \$19.

		PARTIAL UN	EMPLO	YMENT	
State	Definition of partial unemployment: week of less than full-time work if earnings are less than:	Earnings disregarded in computing weekly benefit for partial unemployment	State	Definition of partial unemployment: week of less than full-time work if earnings are less than:	Earnings disregarded in computing weekly benefit for partial unemployment
AL	WBA	\$15	NE	WBA	1/2 WBA; full WBA is paid if earnings are less than 1/2 weekly benefit; 1/2 WBA is paid if wages are 1/2 WBA but less than full WBA.
AK	1-1/3 x WBA + \$50	1/4 wages over \$50	NV	WBA	1/4 wages
AZ	WBA	\$30	NH	WBA	30% of WBA
AR	WBA + 2/5 WBA	40% of WBA	NJ	WBA + greater of \$5 or 1/5 WBA	1/5 WBA
CA	WBA	greater of \$25 or 25% of wages	NM	WBA	1/5 WBA; excludes payments for jury service.
СО	WBA	1/4 WBA	NY	Benefits are paid at the rate of 1, day within a week beginning on defined as 4th and each subsequ in a week in which claimant earn	/4 the WBA for each effective Monday. Effective day ent day of total unemployment
СТ	1-1/2 + basic WBA	1/3 wages; includes holiday pay in the remuneration for determining partial benefits.	NC	week of less than 3 customary scheduled full-time days.	10% of AWW in HQ
DE	WBA + greater of \$10 or 50% of WBA	greater of \$10 or 30% of WBA	ND	WBA	60% WBA
DC	WBA + \$20	1/5 wages	ОН	WBA	1/5 WBA
FL	WBA	8 x federal hourly minimum wage.	OK	WBA + \$100	\$100
GA	WBA	\$50; excludes payments for jury service.	OR	WBA	1/3 WBA; or 10 x state min. wage; excludes wages from service in the organized militia for training or authorized duty from benefit computation.
HI	WBA	\$50	PA	WBA + 40% of WBA	Greater of \$6 or 40% of WBA
ID	WBA + ½ WBA	½ WBA	PR	1-1/2 x WBA; week in which wages, or remuneration from self-employment, are less than 1-1/2 times claimant's WBA or the claimant performs no service for a working period of 32 hours or more in a week.	WBA
IL	WBA	½ WBA	RI 1/	basic WBA	1/5 WBA
IN	WBA	Greater of \$3 or 1/5 WBA from other than base period ERs.	SC	WBA	1/4 WBA
IA	WBA +\$15	1/4 WBA	SD	WBA	1/4 WBA over \$25.
KS	WBA	25% of WBA	TN	WBA	Greater of \$50 or 25% of WBA.

		PARTIAL UN	EMPLO	YMENT	
State	Definition of partial unemployment: week of less than full-time work if earnings are less than:	Earnings disregarded in computing weekly benefit for partial unemployment	State	Definition of partial unemployment: week of less than full-time work if earnings are less than:	Earnings disregarded in computing weekly benefit for partial unemployment
KY	1-1/4 x WBA	1/5 wages	TX	WBA + greater of \$5 or 1/4 WBA.	greater of \$5 or 1/4 WBA
LA	WBA	Lesser of ½ WBA or \$50.	UT	WBA	30% WBA
ME	WBA + \$5	\$25; excludes wages received by members of the National Guard and organized labor, including base pay and allowances or any amounts received as a volunteer emergency medical services worker.	VT	WBA + \$15	Greater of \$40 or 30% WBA
MD	Augmented WBA.	\$90	VA	WBA	\$25
MA	WBA	1/3 WBA; earnings plus WBA may not equal or exceed the worker's AWW.	VI	1-1/3 x WBA + \$15	25% of wages in excess of \$15
MI	1-1/2 x WBA	For each \$1 earned, WBA is reduced by 50 cents. However, benefits and earnings cannot exceed 1 ½ WBA. Earnings above ½ WBA result in dollar-for-dollar reduction in WBA. If the resulting WBA is zero the weeks of benefits payable are reduced by 1 week.	WA	1-1/3 x WBA + \$5	1/4 wages over \$5
MN	WBA	Greater of \$50 or 25% of wages. Excludes up to \$200 in jury pay and wages earned for services performed in National Guard and military reserve; and as a volunteer firefighter or in ambulance services.	WV	WBA + \$61	\$60
MS	WBA	\$40	WI	Any week the worker receives any wages. Also, no worker may be eligible for partial benefits if the benefit payment is less than \$5; or if an employer paid the worker at least 80% of the BP wages or the worker worked for the Employer at least 35 hours in the week at the same or a greater rate of pay as the worker was paid in the HQ	\$30 plus 33% of wages in excess of \$30. Excludes wages received as a volunteer firefighter or voluntary medical technician from benefit computation.
МО	WBA + \$20	\$20; excludes wages from service in the organized militia for training or authorized duty from benefit computation.	WY	Basic WBA	Wages in excess of 50% of WBA
		concili compatation.			

^{1/} Has special provision for totally unemployed workers who have days of employment between the end of the waiting period and the beginning of the first compensable week, and also for those who return to work prior to the end of a compensable week, provided they have been in receipt of benefits for at least 2 successive weeks of total unemployment. For each day of unemployment in such week in which work is ordinarily performed in the worker's occupation, one-fifth of the weekly benefit is paid, up to four-fifths of the weekly rate.

DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCES

Although wages earned during the base period is the primary factor in determining the size of the payment a claimant receives each week, some states' laws provide for a dependents' allowance above and beyond the basic benefit amount payable. The definition of dependent, for UI purposes, varies from state to state as does the allowance granted. In general, a dependent must be wholly or mainly supported by the worker or living with or receiving regular support from the worker.

DEFINITION OF DEPENDENT—All states with dependents' allowances include children under a specified age. The intent is to include all children who the worker is morally obligated to support. In most of these states, allowances may be paid on behalf of older children who are unable to work because of physical or mental disability. In some states, children are not the only dependents recognized - spouses, parents, or siblings are also included in the definition. The following table outlines, for the states that have dependents' allowances, their definition of a dependent.

	DEF	INITION O	F DEPENDENT (12 STAT	TES)			
			Nonworking	dependent			
State	Dependent child under 18 unless otherwise noted 1/	Older child not able to work 1/	Spouse	Parent 1/	Brother or sister	Number of dependents fixed for BY	Max. no. of de- pendents
AK	Child must be unmarried; must have received more than half the cost of support from claimant or be lawfully in the worker's custody at the time the worker claims the allowance.	X					3
CT	21 if child is fulltime student	X	X				5
IL		X	Spouse must be currently ineligible for benefits in the State because of insufficient BP wages.				2
IA		X	No dependency allowance paid for any week in which spouse earns more than \$120 in gross wages.	X	X	X	4
ME		X	No dependency allowance paid for any week in which spouse is employed full time and is contributing to support of dependents.				>5
MD	16					X	5
MA 2/	Child must be unmarried and by interpretation; 24 if child is fulltime student.	X				X	>5
MI	Must have received more than half the cost of support from claimant for at least 90 consecutive days or for the duration of the parental relationship.	X	X	Parents over or permaned disabled for employme or sister ur orphaned of living pare dependents	ently or gainful nt, brother nder 18, or whose nts are	X	>5
NJ	19; child must be unmarried; 22 if child is fulltime student.	X	X			X	3

	DEF	FINITION O	F DEPENDENT (12 STAT	TES)			
			Nonworking	dependent			
State	Dependent child under 18 unless otherwise noted 1/	Older child not able to work <u>1</u> /	Spouse	Parent <u>1</u> /	Brother or sister	Number of dependents fixed for BY	Max. no. of de- pendents
ОН		X	May not be claimed as dependent if average weekly income is in excess of 25% of the claimant's AWW.			X	3
PA		X	X			X	2
RI		X				X	5

^{1/} Includes stepchild by statute in all states except ME and MA; adopted child by statute, AK, IL, IN, ME, MD., MI, NJ, OH, RI; and by interpretation, MA; legal guardian, MA, and RI; full-time student, CT, ME, MI, MA, and NJ. Legal parent, MI.

AMOUNT OF WEEKLY DEPENDENTS' ALLOWANCES—As with the definition of dependents, there is much variation among states concerning the amount of weekly dependents' allowance payable. However, there are some commonalities. For example, the allowance is ordinarily a fixed sum. In addition, all states have a limit on the total amount of dependents' allowance payable in any week - in terms of dollar amount, number of dependents, percentage of basic benefits, or of high-quarter wages or of average weekly wage. This limitation results in reductions, for some workers, in the actual allowance per dependent or the maximum number of dependents on whose behalf allowances may be paid. In almost all states, the number of dependents is fixed for the benefit year when the monetary determination on the claim is made. Likewise, in virtually all states, only one parent may draw allowances if both are receiving benefits simultaneously. Workers who are eligible for partial benefits may draw dependents' allowances in addition to their basic benefits in all the states providing for these allowances. They receive the full allowance for a week of partial unemployment. Consequently, the allowance for dependents may be greater than the basic benefit for partial unemployment. Alaska and Connecticut permit the dependents' allowances to be adjusted during the benefit year if a worker acquires additional dependents.

In all states except Illinois, Maryland and Ohio, the existence of a week of partial unemployment is measured without regard to the dependents' allowance; workers are considered partially unemployed if they earn less than the unadjusted weekly benefit amount.

		AM	OUNT OF	WEEKLY D	EPENDEN	ITS' ALLOWANC	ES		
				Minimum weekly benefit		Maximum weekly benefit		Maximum potential benefits	
State	Weekly allowance per dependent	Limitation on weekly allowances	Basic benefit	Maximum allowance	Basic benefit	Maximum allowance	Full allowance for week of partial benefits	Without depen- dents	With dependents
AK	\$24	\$72	\$44	\$72	\$248	\$72	Yes	\$6,448	\$8320
CT	\$15	WBA	\$15	\$15	\$429	\$75	Yes	\$11,154	\$13,104
IL	\$3-\$96	\$5-\$86	\$51	\$5	\$326	\$96	Yes	\$8,476	\$11.388
IA	\$5-\$15	Schedule \$2-\$62	\$44	\$10	\$300	\$68	Yes	\$7,800	\$9,568
ME	\$10	½ WBA	\$51	\$25	\$292	\$146	Yes	\$7,592	\$11,388

^{2/} Only dependents residing within the U.S., its Territories and possessions.

		AM	OUNT OF	WEEKLY D	EPENDEN	ITS' ALLOWANC	ES		
				um weekly enefit	Maximu	m weekly benefit			um potential enefits
State	Weekly allowance per dependent	Limitation on weekly allowances	Basic benefit	Maximum allowance	Basic benefit	Maximum allowance	Full allowance for week of partial benefits	Without depen- dents	With dependents
MD	\$8	\$40; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.	\$25	\$65	\$310	\$0; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.	Yes Not more than 26 payments for dep. may be made in any one BY.	\$8,060	\$8,060; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.
MA	\$25	½ WBA	\$29	\$14	\$508	\$254	Yes	\$13,208	\$19,812
MI	\$6	\$30; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.	\$81	\$111	\$362	\$0; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.		\$9,412	\$7,800; same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.
NJ	\$4-\$30	7% for 1 st dependent and 4% for each of the next two dependents.	\$61	\$15	\$475	\$95 (1/5 WBA); same maximum WBA with or without dep. allowances; claimants at lower WBA may have benefits increased by dep. allowances.	Yes	\$11,154	\$11,154
NM	\$15	½ WBA.	\$58	\$73	\$290	\$350	Yes	\$7,540	\$9,100
ОН	\$1-\$100	Benefits paid to claimants with dep. are determined by schedule according to the AWW and dependency class.	\$90	\$0	\$323	\$113	Yes	\$8,398	\$11,336
PA	\$5; \$3 for one other dependent.	\$8	\$35	\$8	\$461	\$8	Yes; not more than 26 DA payments may be made in any one BY.	\$11,986	\$12.194
RI	The greater of \$ the worker's bendependent, up to		\$56	\$50	\$441	\$110	Yes	\$11,466	\$14,326

DURATION OF BENEFITS

When states compute a worker's monetary eligibility for benefits, in addition to calculating the weekly benefit amount, they determine the duration of benefits-- how long benefits can be collected. The duration is usually measured as a number of weeks of total unemployment. A few states' laws establish uniform durations of 26 weeks for all workers who meet the qualifying-wage requirements whereas the rest of the states have variable durations. Uniform duration states are not necessarily "more generous" than the other states because many of these states have comparatively high minimum wage thresholds to qualify for all but the lowest benefit levels. Similarly, whether directly or indirectly, all uniform duration states require employment in more than one quarter for all - or most - workers to qualify for benefits.

This section deals only with the regular UI program. Extensions are addressed in the following chapter.

METHODS OF DETERMINING DURATION—In variable duration states, duration is determined by establishing a limit on total benefits receivable in a benefit year. In most of these states, a worker's benefits (hence, duration) is limited to a fraction or percent of base-period wages if it produces an amount less than the specified multiple (usually 26-30) of the worker's weekly benefit amount. The rest of the variable duration states - states using an average-weekly-wage method - set maximum potential benefits as a fraction of weeks worked during the base period. The following table describes how each of the variable duration states calculates the duration of benefits a worker is eligible to receive.

In all of these states, the maximum potential benefit may be used in weeks of total or partial unemployment.

			HOW S	TATES	DETERMINE DUR	ATION			
State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment 1/	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment 1/	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment 1/
AL	Lesser of 1/3 BPW or 26 x WBA	GA	1/4	MI	43% x total BP wages divided by WBA.	NC	Ratio of BPW to HQW multiplied by 8-2/3.	TN	1/4
AK	Ratio of annual wages to HQWfrom less than 1.50-3.5 or more.	ID	Ratio of annual wages to HQW from 1.25 to 3.25	MN	1/3	ND	Ratio of annual wages to HQW from 1.5 to 3.2	TX	Lesser of 26 weeks or 27% of base period wages.
AZ	1/3	IN	28%; only specified amount of wages per quarter may be used for computing duration of benefits: \$7,300.	MS	1/3	ОН	20 x WBA+ WBA for each credit week in excess of 20.	UT	27%
AR	Lesser of 26 x WBA or 1/3 BPW.	IA	1/3; If laid off due to employer going out of business, ½ of wages in BP up to 39 weeks	МО	1/3 BPW.	OK	Weighted schedule of BPW to HQW.	VA	1/4
CA	Lesser of 26 x WBA or ½ BPW.	KS	1/3	MT	Ratio of annual wages to HQW from less than 1.25 to 3.50	OR	1/25	VI	1/3

			HOW S	TATES	DETERMINE DUR	ATION			
State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment <u>1</u> /	State	Proportion of BPW credits or weeks of employment 1/
СО	Lesser of 26 x WBA or 1/3 BPW.	KY	1/3	NE	1/3	PA	A worker with at least 18 credit weeks is eligible for 26 weeks of benefits; with at least 16 credit weeks, 16 weeks of benefits. A credit week is one in which the claimant earned at least \$50.	WA	MBA divided by WBA.
DE	1/2	LA	27%	NV	Less of 26 x WBA or 1/3 total BP wages.	RI	36%	WI	40%
DC	1/2	ME	1/3	NJ	100% base weeks worked in base year, up to 26.	SC	1/3	WY	30%
FL	25%	MA	36%	NM	3/5	SD	1/3		

^{1/} In states with weighted tables percent of benefits figures at bottom of lowest end of highest wage brackets; in states noted, percentage at other brackets are higher and/or lower than percentage shown.

MINIMUM WEEKS OF BENEFITS—In most states, the minimum potential annual benefits result from the minimum qualifying wages and the duration fraction or from a schedule. Once the minimum potential annual benefit is determined, duration is calculated by dividing it by the weekly benefit. If the weekly benefit amount is higher than the statutory minimum weekly benefit (because the qualifying wages are concentrated largely or wholly in the high quarter), the weeks of duration are correspondingly reduced.

	MINIMUM BENEFITS - STATES WITH UNIFORM DURATION FOR ALL CLAIMANTS $\underline{1}/$ (9 STATES)									
State Amount \$ Weeks State Amount \$ Weeks State Amount \$ Weeks								Weeks		
CT	390	26	MD	650	26	PR	182	26		
НІ	130	26	NH	832	26	VT	1,092	26		
IL	1,326	26; claimants are eligible for the lesser of 26 weeks of benefits or their total BP wages.	NY	1,040	26	WV	624	26		

		MINIMUM BENE	EFITS - S	TATES WITH VAR	YING DURATION	<u>1</u> / (44 S	STATES)	
State	Amount \$	Weeks	State	Amount \$	Weeks	State	Amount \$	Weeks
AL	675	15+	LA	210	21+	OK	352	22; less than 26 if only one BP employer.
AK	704	16	ME	714	14	OR	258 <u>3</u> /	3+
AZ	500	12+	MA	290	10+-30	PA	560	16
AR	567	9	MI	1,134	14	RI	448	8+
CA	562	14+	MN	380	10+	SC	300	15
СО	325	13	MS	400	13+	SD	429	15+
DE	480	24	МО	500	12+	TN	390	13
DC	950	19	MT	584	8	TX	477	9
FL	850	9	NE	540	15	UT	240	10
GA	360	9	NV	192	12+	VA	600	12
ID <u>1</u> /	510	10	NJ	915	15	VI	416	13+
IN	400	8+	NM	1,102	19	WA	1,308	12+-30
IA	440	11+	NC <u>1</u> /	468	13-26	WI	588	12
KS	870	10	ND	516	12	WY	242	11-26
KY <u>1</u> /	585	15	ОН	1,800	20		'	_

A "+" indicates that the minimum number of weeks equals a whole number plus a fraction. This occurs when the maximum benefit amount divided by the weekly benefit amount does not result in a whole number.

MAXIMUM WEEKS OF BENEFITS—Maximum weeks of benefits vary from 26 to 30 weeks, most frequently 26 weeks.

	MAXIMU	M BENEFITS - STATES WIT	TH UNIFORM DURATION 1/ (9	STATES)			
			Wage credits required				
State	Amounts (When 2 amounts are given, higher includes dependents.)	Weeks	High quarter \$	Base period \$			
СТ	11,154 – 13,104	26 <u>2</u> /	11,154	17,160; claimant with maximum augmented benefit needs \$16,480 in BPW.			
HI	10,842 <u>2</u> /	26 <u>2</u> /	8,736	10,842			
IL	8,476 - 11,388	26; claimants are eligible for the lesser of 26 weeks of benefits or their total BP wages.	7,715	17,069			
MD	8,060; same maximum with or without deps.	26	7,416	11,124			
NH	9,672	26	Annual-wage formula; no required amount of wages in HQ.	36,500			

^{1/} In ID, KY and NC, a minimum number of weeks duration (10 to 26) is specified in the law.

	MAXIMU	M BENEFITS - STATES WIT	TH UNIFORM DURATION 1/9	STATES)
			Wage cre	edits required
State	Amounts (When 2 amounts are given, higher includes dependents.)	Weeks	High quarter \$	Base period \$
NY	10,530	26	10,530	15795
PR	3,458	26 <u>2</u> /	3,442	5,320
VT	9,334	26	Computed as wages in the 2 highest quarters divided by 45 (but not more than the maximum WBA)	13,410; Computed as wages in the 2 highest quarters divided by 45 (but not more than the maximum WBA)
WV	9,308	26	Annual-wage formula; no required amount of wages in HQ.	33,850

^{1/} In states with weighted tables percent of benefits figures at bottom of lowest end of highest wage brackets; in states noted, percentage at other brackets are higher and/or lower than percentage shown.

	MAXIMUM	BENEFITS - STATES	WITH VARIABLE DURATION 1/(4	14 STATES)
	Amounts (When 2			edits required
State	amounts are given, higher includes dependents.)	Weeks	High quarter \$	Base period \$
AL	5,546	26	5,028	7.542
AK	6,448 - 8,320	26	Annual-wage formula; no required amount of wages in HQ.	26,500
AZ	5,330	26	5,113	7,000
AR	8,970	26	8,970	9,315
CA	9,620	26	9,594	11,993
СО	10,348	26	N/A: highest quarter does not apply to the formula that yields the maximum potential benefits.	41,392
DE	8,580	26	•	15,180
DC	8,034; same maximum with or without deps.	26	8,034	12,051
FL	7,150	26	7,150	10,725; No required number of weeks of employment or amount of wages in HQ.
GA	7,800	26	6,576	28,496
ID	8,320	26	8,294	10,367.50
IN	9,048	26	8,200	10,250
IA	7,800 – 9,568	26	7,081	8,851
KS	9,126	26	8,259	10,530
KY	9,490	26	17,383	26,075
LA	6,708	26	16,562	24,843
ME	7,592 - 11,388	26		12,848
MA	15,240 - 22,860	30		15,240
MI	9,412	26	\$7,318	10,977

MAXIMUM BENEFITS - STATES WITH VARIABLE DURATION 1/ (44 STATES)											
State	Amounts (When 2 amounts are given, higher	Weeks	High quarter	Base period							
101	includes dependents.)	26	\$	\$							
MN	12,428	26	8,398	12,428							
MS	5,460	26	5,460	8,400							
МО	6,500	26	6,250	9,375							
MT	9,044	28 <u>2</u> /	Annual-wage formula; no required amount of wages in HQ.	32,300 <u>1</u> /							
NE	7,280	26	7,280	8,080 <u>1</u> /							
NV	8,242	26	7,925	11,888							
NJ	12,740; same maximum with or without deps.	26 <u>2</u> /		16,363 <u>;</u> 20 weeks							
NM	7,540	26	7,181	8,976							
NC	10,816	26	10,816	16,224							
ND	8,112	26	17,160	25,740							
ОН	8,398 - 11,336	26	\$534.00 (for claimants with deps.; \$644.00 to \$716.00 based on number of deps.).	13,884; 26 wks							
OK	7,150	26; duration can be much less than 26 weeks for claimants with only one BP employer.	6,875	10,313							
OR	10,660	26	21,866	32,800							
PA	11,986 - 12,194	26	11,463	18,360							
RI	11,466 - 14,326	26	8,600	28,672							
SC	7,410	26	7,410	11,115							
SD	6,448	26	6,448	11,408							
TN	7,150	26	7,150	14,300							
TX	8,580	26	8,225	12,210							
UT	9,802	26	9,802	14,703							
VA	8,216	26		15,800							
VI	12,246	26	12,246	18,369							
WA	14,880	30 <u>3</u> /	11,025	22,050							
WI	8,554	26	8,225	9,870							
WY	7,956	26	7,650	25,500							

 $[\]underline{l}/$ In states with weighted tables percent of benefits figures at bottom of lowest end of highest wage brackets; in states noted, percentage at other brackets are higher and/or lower than percentage shown.

^{2/} In order to qualify for 28 weeks, individual's ratio of total base period wages to HQ wages must be at least 3.5.

³/ Drops to the lesser of 26 weeks or 1/3 base year wages if the state unemployment rate falls to 6.8% or below.

OTHER LIMITS ON DURATION—In most states with variable duration, workers at all benefit levels are subject to the same minimum and maximum weeks of duration.

Three states include a limitation on wage credits in computing duration. In Colorado only wages up to 26 times the current maximum weekly benefit amount per quarter count; in Indiana, wages up to \$5,200. In Missouri wage credits are limited to 26 times the worker's weekly benefit amount. This type of provision tends to reduce weeks of benefits for workers at the higher benefit levels.

MAXIMUM POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN A BENEFIT YEAR—In the 53 states, maximum potential basic benefits in a benefit year are lowest in Puerto Rico and highest in Massachusetts. In the states with dependents' allowances, maximum potential benefits for the worker with maximum dependents' allowances are lowest in Alaska and highest in Massachusetts. The qualifying wages required for these various amounts vary even more widely than the benefits. The variations are related more to the type of formula than to the amount of benefits.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS

Special provisions are found in several states' laws restricting the payment of benefits to workers who earned some or a substantial part of their base-period wages for employers' whose operations take place only during certain seasons of the year.

In these provisions, the term seasonal is defined - either in the statute or in the rules or regulations implementing the statute - in terms of:

- the industry, employer, or occupation involved;
- the wages earned during the operating period of the employer or industry; and
- the worker.

In most states, the designation of seasonal industries, occupations, or employers and the beginning and ending dates of their seasons is made in accordance with a formal procedure, following action initiated by the UI agency or upon application by the employers or workers involving hearings and presentation of supporting data. Arkansas law provides that any employer classified as a seasonal employer may request not to be treated as a seasonal employer.

In other states a seasonal pursuit, industry, or employer is defined in such terms as one in which, because of climatic conditions or the seasonal nature of the employment, it is customary to operate only during a regularly recurring period or periods of less than (a specified number of weeks): 16 weeks in Massachusetts; 26 weeks in Colorado; 26 weeks in Indiana; 26 weeks in Maine (except for seasonal lodging facilities, variety store or trading post, restaurants and camps, where a period of less than 26 weeks applies); 26 weeks in Michigan, 26 weeks in Ohio; and 36 weeks in North Carolina.

In general, the restrictions on the payment of benefits to workers employed during the operating periods of these seasonal industries fall into one of four groups.

1. The most frequent restriction provides that wage credits earned in seasonal employment are available for payment of benefits only for weeks of unemployment in the benefit year that fall within the operating period of the employer or industry where they were earned: wage credits earned in non-seasonal work or in employment with a seasonal employer outside the operating period are available for payment of benefits at any time in the benefit year. The states with this type of provision are listed below, together with the definitions of "seasonal worker" to whom the restrictions apply:

	SEASONAL WAGE CREDITS AVAILABLE ONLY DURING SEASON (12 STATES)											
AR	Off-season wages of (a) less than 30 times the weekly benefit amount, if worker's seasonal wages were earned in an industry with an operating period of 2-6 months; or (b) less than 24 times the weekly benefit amount, if seasonal wages were earned in an industry with operating period of 7-8 months.	ME	Some seasonal wages in operating period of seasonal employer.	NC	25 percent or more of base-period wages earned in operating period of seasonal employer.							
AZ	For employment in transient lodging only, no benefits based on seasonal wages during the off-season if unemployment is due to substantial slowdown in operations.	MA	Some seasonal wages in operating period of seasonal industry.	ОН	Some seasonal wages earned in operating period of seasonal employer.							
СО	Some seasonal wages in operating period of seasonal industry.	MI	Wages must be within seasonal period of 26 weeks or less. Designation of employment as seasonal is voluntary.	PA	Seasonal wages for less than 180 days of work in operating period. Applies only if reasonable assurance of reemployment exists.							
IN	Some seasonal wages in operating period of seasonal employer.	MS	Off-season wages of (a) less than 30 times the weekly benefit amount, if worker's seasonal wages were earned in a cotton ginning industry or professional baseball with an operating period of 6-26 weeks; or (b) less than 24 times the weekly benefit amount, if seasonal wages were earned in a cotton ginning industry or professional baseball with operating period of 27-36 weeks.	SD	Some wages earned in operating period of seasonal employer.							

2. Other states have established differing seasonal provisions, which are listed below.

	OTHER SEASONAL PROVISIONS (4 STATES)
DE	Individual with 75% or more of base period earnings in seasonal employment – defined as the processing of agricultural or seafood products - will be eligible only if the individual had been employed in the corresponding month of the base period.
MN	Individual may use seasonal wage credits – defined as employment with a single employer in the recreation or tourist industry that is available for 15 consecutive weeks or less each calendar year – only if individual is able to establish a benefit year without using such seasonal wages. Seasonal wage credits may not be used to establish eligibility outside the normal employment season.
WV	Individual working less than 100 days in seasonal employment is not eligible unless the individual has non-seasonal employment of at least \$100.
WI	Individual working less than 90 days for a seasonal employer is not eligible unless the individual is paid wages of \$500 or more by at least one other employer.

DEDUCTIONS AND WITHHOLDING FROM BENEFITS

Under federal law, UI must be paid to a worker as a matter of right and may not be intercepted to satisfy debts or other obligations. However, federal law provides some exceptions to this requirement and these are discussed below.

OVERPAYMENTS—All states reduce UI otherwise payable to recover earlier overpayments of UI. See the Overpayments chapter for more information on this topic.

CHILD SUPPORT—Federal law requires states to deduct child support obligations from UI only when the obligations are enforced by the state child support agency.

OVERISSUANCES OF FOOD STAMPS—If the worker owes an uncollected over-issuance of Food Stamps, states may deduct such amount from UI benefits payable. The table below indicates which state laws provide for these deductions. However, all of these states do not necessarily make these deductions; it depends on whether the state UI and Food Stamp agencies have entered into agreements.

	STATES WITH AUTHORITY TO DEDUCT FOOD STAMP OVER-ISSUANCES (30)														
State		State		State		State		State		State		State		State	
AL	X	DE	X	IN		MA	X	NV		ОН		SC		VI	X
AK		DC		IA	X	MI		NH	X	OK	X	SD	X	VA	X
AZ	X	FL		KS	X	MN		NJ	X	OR		TN	X	WA	
AR	X	GA	X	KY		MS		NM	X	PA		TX	X	WV	X
CA		HI	X	LA	X	МО	X	NY	X	PR		UT	X	WI	
СО	X	ID		ME	X	MT	X	NC		RI		VT	X	WY	X
СТ		IL	X	MD		NE	X	ND							

INCOME TAX—Federal law requires states to offer workers the opportunity to have income tax withheld from UI benefits at the rate of 10 percent. Federal law also permits states to withhold state and local income tax from UI benefits. The following table indicates which states offer workers the opportunity to have state (and/or local) income taxes withheld.

WITHHOLDING STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAX AT CLAIMANT OPTION														
State	State	Local	State	State	Local	State	State	Local	State	State	Local	State	State	Local
AL			HI	X	1/	MI	<u>2</u> /		NC	X		TN	X	X
AK	NA		ID	X		MN	X		ND	X		TX	NA	
AZ	X		IL	X	X	MS	X	X	ОН			UT	X	X
AR			IN	X		МО	X	X	OK	2/		VT	2/	
CA			IA	X		MT			OR	X		VI		
СО	X		KS	X	X	NE	X		PA			VA		
CT	X	X	KY	X		NV	NA		PR			WA	NA	
DE	X	X	LA			NH	X	X	RI	X		WV		
DC	X	X	ME	X	X	NJ			SC	X		WI	X	
FL	NA		MD	X		NM	X	X	SD	NA		WY	NA	
GA	X		MA	X		NY	X	X						

NA: No state income tax.

^{1/} Local income taxes deducted and withheld from the worker's UI for other states and localities.

^{2/} If federal taxes are elected to be withheld from UI benefits then state taxes will be withheld as well.

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE—Illinois and Oklahoma law authorize the deduction of health insurance premiums deducted from the UI weekly benefit amount if the worker so elects, provided that the state has an approved health care plan for unemployed workers. However, neither state has implemented this authority. Massachusetts has a health insurance program for unemployed workers; however, it is unrelated to the UI program.