



U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance is the first economic line of defense for workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Unemployment Insurance provides eligible jobless workers with financial assistance for up to 26 weeks of benefits and for 13 to 20 additional weeks in periods of high and rising unemployment in individual states. Eligibility, including benefit amounts, are determined by State law and generally are based on wages earned or time worked during the last year.

First authorized by the Social Security Act of 1935, Unemployment Insurance was created as a means to alleviate personal hardship due to involuntary job loss and to stabilize the economy by maintaining the purchasing power of unemployed workers. The Unemployment Insurance Program is a unique Federal-State partnership funded almost entirely through employer taxes maintained in the Unemployment Trust Fund. State taxes on employer payrolls finance unemployment benefits, while Federal agencies finance benefits for ex-Federal workers and ex-service members. The program is administered by each State, with funding derived from Federal Unemployment Tax Act revenues. During fiscal year 2000, 6.8 million beneficiaries qualified for benefits totaling \$21.5 billion.

Unemployed workers can obtain benefits by filing a claim through some 1,700 local Unemployment Insurance claims offices -- many in One-Stop Centers -- and call centers in 21 states. Nearly 90 percent of those claiming Unemployment Insurance receive their first check within two to three weeks. The average weekly benefit was \$213 in 2000.

For information on the nearest claims office or how to file a claim, visit the Unemployment Insurance Web site at <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/aboutui.asp>.

You can access America's Workforce Network at <http://www.doleta.gov>, or by calling the Toll-Free Help Line at 1-877-US2-JOBS. (For TTY, call 1-877-TTY-JOBS.)



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Fact Sheets

The following is a list of Department of Labor-supported activities and services that are part of America's Workforce Network which may be of particular interest to workers, employers, and workforce development professionals. A fact sheet with specific information is available for each of the following areas:

- Accessing Services via Phone or Internet
- Adult Employment and Training Services
- America's Labor Market Information System
- America's Career Kit (Online Resources)
- America's Workforce Network
- Applying for ETA Grants
- Assistance for Trade-Impacted Workers
- Basic Information for Employers
- Basic Information for Workers and Job-Seekers
- Disability Employment and Training Services
- Dislocated Worker Program (Services for Laid-Off Workers)
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High-Tech Skills Training
- Job Corps
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Employment and Training Services
- Native American Employment and Training Services
- Older Workers Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Partners
- Registered Apprenticeship
- School-to-Work
- Tax Credit Programs
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare-to-Work
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Movement

Available online at: <http://www.usworkforce.org/factsheets> or by calling (202) 693-3900. This Web address also provides links to other Federal partners under the Workforce Investment Act and other initiatives that provide additional services to enhance individual and community well-being.