

PREFACE

The Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws provides state-by-state information on workers covered, benefit eligibility, methods of financing, and other areas of interest in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. It also includes information on the temporary disability programs operated in six states. The Comparison is published annually. This edition reflects the state laws enacted as of January 1, 2009.

The Comparison is issued solely for informational, reference, and research purposes. It is not an official interpretation of state UI laws. The state statute should be consulted for the full text of state law. Unless otherwise noted, the Comparison generally reflects state law, but not official interpretations of state laws, which are found in state rules and regulations, administrative and court decisions, and opinions of attorneys general.

This edition continues our efforts to make the Comparison more user-friendly and to reflect areas of current interest in the UI program. This year's major changes include:

- Chapter 3 – Monetary Entitlement: Two tables regarding waiting periods were combined and additional information about when waiting periods are compensable or waived was provided.
- Chapter 4 – Extensions and Special Programs: Concerning the discussion of the Extended Benefits (EB) program, a new table was inserted that provides the monetary qualifying formula(s) states use when their regular UI qualifying formula does not satisfy the 20 week requirement.

Text and a table were also added regarding the temporary special Federal extension programs enacted by Congress since 1958.

We recognize that the Comparison is useful only if it contains accurate data. States are encouraged to advise us of any needed corrections, either through their Regional Offices or the contacts listed below. All users are invited to provide comments on the Comparison. We would like to thank those states that supplied updates and corrections.

The Comparison is available on-line at www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov. (Click on “Laws;” then scroll down to “State Law Information.”) Other documents available on-line are listed in Appendix II of the Comparison.

Any comments or corrections may be directed to one of the following staff:

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Comments may also be mailed to either of the above at the following address:

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Employment and Training Administration, OWS/DL
Room S-4231
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State specific information on filing a claim for unemployment benefits, employment assistance, or employer information is available online at www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/. Scroll down to the middle of the page, click on the blue map, and on the next screen, click on the appropriate state.