

Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws 2002



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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 UI program. It also includes information on the temporary disability programs operated in six states. The Comparison is published annually. This edition reflects the status of state laws enacted as of January 1, 2002.

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. Official interpretations of state laws are found in state rules and regulations, administrative and court decisions, and attorney general's opinions.

This edition has been revised to make the Comparison more user-friendly and to reflect areas of current interest in the UI program. Tables have been integrated into the text and reformatted to eliminate footnotes. In some cases, information previously presented as text has been converted to table format. New information includes:

- The date on which the states check their trust fund balances for purposes of determining tax rates.
- Which states use array systems for computing tax rates.
- The new employer tax rate assigned for the current year.
- States considering part-time workers to be available for work.
- Comparisons of state short-time compensation (worksharing) programs.

Although the changes in formatting are too numerous to list, the following gives some examples:

- Chapter and table titles have been changed to more accurately reflect their contents.
- Information on benefit extensions and alternative-use programs are now contained in a separate chapter.
- The surtax table has been split into several tables, each relating to a specific type of surtax.
- Information on alternative and extended base periods has been converted from footnotes to a separate table.

We recognize that the Comparison is useful only if it contains accurate and useful 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 voluntarily offering corrections on an early draft of this Comparison and the Department of Labor staff who verified much of the information to assure it was current and who also developed new information. Special thanks are due to Robert S. Kenyon, Jr., who initiated the project to revise the Comparison, Suzanne Schwartz Simonetta who took over the project in midstream, and Ed Medlin, who provided valuable assistance as we neared publication.

The Comparison is available on-line at www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov. (Click on “unemployment insurance;” then click on “publications.”). Other documents available on-line are listed at the end of the Comparison.

Any comments or corrections should be sent to Suzanne Schwartz Simonetta at ssimonetta@doleta.gov or 202-693-3225, or Loryn Lancaster at llancaster@dolet.gov or 202-693-2994. Comments may be mailed to either of the above at the following address:

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