

# Understanding Unemployment Insurance

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# Who can apply for Unemployment Benefits

- ❖ Any individual can apply for unemployment benefits. It is each person's right and due process as a citizen and lawful resident of the United States.
- ❖ There are Monetary and Eligibility Requirements that one must meet before benefits can be paid



# How to file for Unemployment Benefits

There are three ways that an individual can file for benefits:

- ONLINE
- MAIL
- In person claims taken in Somerton & San Luis offices only



❖ A helpful resource for individuals who want to file for benefits is Employment Services.



To apply by internet

Claimants can log onto:

[www.azui.com](http://www.azui.com)

or

[www.azdes.gov](http://www.azdes.gov)

❖ Select the option to “Apply for UI Benefits”



• **If you receive a notice advising you to report to an Employment Service (ES) Office**, refer to our online directory for [Service Offices](#) throughout the state.

## Unemployment Benefits

## Employer Taxes

## UI SIDES

## Español

### Online Services



- [Apply for UI Benefits or Federal Extensions](#)
- [File Your Weekly UI Claims](#)
- [View UI Claim Information](#)
- [Information about UI Benefits Paid in 2012 \(IRS Form 1099-G\)](#)
- [Reset Personal Identification Number \(PIN\)](#)
- [Appeal a UI Decision](#)

### Help With



- [Missed Filing](#)
- [No Record of Social Security Number](#)
- [My UI status is paid, but my EPC balance is not](#)
- [PIN Reset](#)
- [Address Change](#)

### What You Need To Know



- [Information for New Applicant](#)
- [About Weekly Claims](#)
- [Federal Benefit Extensions](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Payment Information](#)

[more...](#)

### Contact Us



- [Contact Us](#)
- [Mailing Address](#)
- [Email Arizona Unemployment Insurance](#)
- [Appeal Contact Information](#)
- [Report Unemployment Insurance Fraud](#)

### How Do I?

### Important Information

# Initial claims are no longer accepted by phone

Claimants can call Arizona Reemployment Rapid Access (ARRA), at these local numbers for questions regarding their claim.

- 1-877-600-2722 (toll free)
- 1-602-364-2722 Phoenix
- 1-520-791-2722 Tucson



# ARRA Call in schedule has been implemented:

If the claimant's social security number ends with

1, 2 or 3 calls are accepted on Monday

4, 5 or 6 calls are accepted on Tuesday

7, 8 or 9 calls are accepted on Wednesday

0 calls are accepted on Thursdays

Friday is open for anyone to call

If the assigned day is a holiday, call on Friday.



# Important to remember when filing for benefits

- ❖ A claim for benefits is effective the week in which it is filed.
- ❖ A claimant is encouraged to file for benefits the same week their separation occurs.
- ❖ The Department bases all decisions on Federal and State Laws, Rules, and Policies.





# How much can you get?

- ❖ In Arizona, Unemployment Insurance is based on wages earned during the base period. The maximum weekly award is \$240 per week.
- ❖ Minimum weekly benefit amount is \$122 per week and the maximum is \$240 per week, for up to 26 weeks (6 months) unless there is a special extension.
- ❖ Benefit amount is determined by wages earned during the “Base Period”.
- ❖ The first week of unemployment during which you meet all eligibility requirements is the waiting week. The waiting week is not a payable week.



# Monetary Requirements

- Monetary eligibility for unemployment insurance is based on insured wages paid during a one year period called ***the base period***.
- The base period will be the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to the date someone first applied for unemployment insurance.
- The calendar year is divided into four calendar quarters
  - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter                      Jan 1 – Mar 31
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter                      Apr 1 – Jun 30
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter                      Jul 1 – Sept 30
  - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter                      Oct 1 – Dec 31



# BASE PERIOD

**Shaded area: First four quarters. If a claim is filed in**

OCT. NOV. DEC.	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG. SEPT.	5 <sup>TH</sup> /Lag Quarter	JAN. FEB. MAR.			
	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	5 <sup>TH</sup> /Lag Quarter	APRIL MAY JUNE		
		APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	JAN. FEB. MAR.	5 <sup>TH</sup> /Lag Quarter	JULY AUG. SEPT.	
			JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APRIL MAY JUNE	5 <sup>TH</sup> /Lag Quarter	OCT. NOV. DEC.
Previous Year	Last Year				This Year			

**EXAMPLE:** If a claim for benefits is filed in April 2013, the **BASE PERIOD** would be the 1st Quarter of 2012 through the 4th Quarter of 2012.

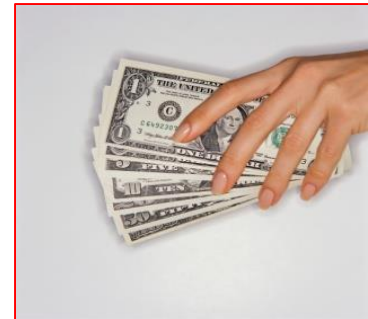


# Monetary Eligibility continued

To qualify for benefits, wages must have been paid in *insured employment* of:

- ✓ At least 390 times the Arizona minimum wage in effect at the time the claim is filed (currently \$7.90 an hour x 390 = \$3042.00.) The total of the other three quarters must equal at least one half of the amount in the high quarter.

OR



# Monetary Eligibility continued

- ✓ At least \$7000.00 in total wages in at least two quarters of the Base Period, with wages in one quarter equal to \$5987.50 or more.

If the claimant does not meet these requirements, then his or her claim will be ***MONETARILY INELIGIBLE*** and benefits will not be paid.



# Claimant's Responsibilities

- US Citizen or Lawfully Permitted to work in the US
- Able to work
- Available to work
- Actively seeking work  
(work search contacts must be submitted each week)
- Employment Service Registration  
([www.azjobconnection.gov](http://www.azjobconnection.gov))
- Certify that she or he has read and understood A Guide to Unemployment Insurance Arizona Benefits



# Eligibility Requirements

## Who is eligible to receive Unemployment Benefits?

### ➤ Claimants who:

- Are out of work from their most recent employer due to no fault of their own
- Who are able to work and available for work each regular workday
- Who are actively seeking work each week they file for benefits



# New Work Search Requirements

**Actively seeking work** – Individuals must make an active and continuous effort to seek work each week that benefits are claimed. An active work search means:

- Individuals must engage in a systematic and sustained effort to obtain work during at least **four** different days of the week and you must make at least **three** work search contacts during the week.
- Work search should include the usual methods of obtaining work that individuals are suited for by experience, education and/or training. **An adequate search for work is a sincere, consistent effort, and is not just an attempt to remain eligible for benefits.**



# New Work Search Requirements

- Keep a record of all work search contacts made each week that a claimant files for benefits.
- ***Individuals will be required*** to provide this information when they file a weekly claim. Keep the following information on each employer: the date of contact, company name and address, the name of the person contacted or website visited, the method of contact, the type of work sought, and the results.
- ***Failure to make an adequate search for work will result in a disqualification from benefits for the duration of his or her unemployment.***



# Questions?



Thank You!



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