

Understanding Unemployment Insurance

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

or

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
 - 1st quarter Jan 1 – Mar 31
 - 2nd quarter Apr 1 – Jun 30
 - 3rd quarter Jul 1 – Sept 30
 - 4th 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 TH /Lag Quarter	JAN. FEB. MAR.			
	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	5 TH /Lag Quarter	APRIL MAY JUNE		
		APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	JAN. FEB. MAR.	5 TH /Lag Quarter	JULY AUG. SEPT.	
			JULY AUG. SEPT.	OCT. NOV. DEC.	JAN. FEB. MAR.	APRIL MAY JUNE	5 TH /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)
- 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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