

**UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE
AGENCY**

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Claiming Unemployment Benefits in Michigan

If you become unemployed, you may qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. These benefits are intended to provide temporary income as you seek new employment. The following is basic information about Michigan's unemployment insurance program, which is administered by the Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA).

How to file a claim for unemployment benefits

A claim for unemployment benefits begins the week it is filed. Therefore, you should file your claim for benefits during your first week of unemployment. There are two ways in which to file a claim. You can file a new unemployment claim or reopen an existing claim by:

1. Telephone -- call our special toll-free telephone number -- **1-866-500-0017**. You can call and file by using a touch-tone telephone from anywhere in the United States and Canada. Your scheduled time for filing by telephone is based on the last two digits of your Social Security number.

2. Internet -- visit our website -- www.michigan.gov/uia. The website is available from 7:00 a.m. Monday through 7:00 p.m. Saturday (*Eastern Time*). If you need a computer with Internet access, visit your local public library. Most have computers with Internet connections available for public use.

Once you file your new claim, you will be mailed:

- A determination showing if you qualify based on the wages you have earned, the amount of weekly benefits and the number of weeks you **may receive**.
- If there is an eligibility issue with your claim, you will receive a separate notice.
- A booklet with detailed information about your rights and responsibilities for unemployment benefits. ***Please read this material carefully.***

Qualifying requirements

The UIA will look at your **standard base period** to determine if your earnings qualify you for unemployment benefits. The standard base period includes the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters prior to when you filed your claim. The four calendar quarters in a year are: January – March, April – June, July – September and October – December.

If you cannot qualify based on your standard base period, the UIA will check your earnings in the **“alternate” base period**, which is the four most recently completed calendar quarters.

There are two ways in which your earnings may qualify you for unemployment benefits:

- **“Regular” qualifying method:** (a) For benefit years beginning 1/6/2008 through 1/3/2009, you must have wages in at least two quarters in your base period. In one quarter, your wages must be at least **\$2,774**; and (b) total wages for all four quarters must equal at least one and a half times the highest amount of wages paid in any quarter of the base period. ($\$2,774 \times 1.5 = \$4,161$)
OR
- **Alternate Earnings Qualifier (AEQ):** (a) You must have wages in at least two quarters; *and* (b) total wages for all four quarters must equal at least 20 times the state average weekly wage (SAWW). For 2008, the AEQ amount is **\$16,400.80**. [20 x \$820.04 (SAWW) = **\$16,400.80**]

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible for unemployment benefits, you must be unemployed and able to, available for, and actively seeking suitable full-time work. Unless instructed otherwise by UIA staff, you must also register for work within two to three business days of applying for benefits by filing your resume with the Michigan Talent Bank and by reporting to your local *Michigan Works!* Agency service center.

Schedule for filing by phone

Based on last 2 digits
of Social Security number

	8:00 AM to 12:30 PM	12:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Mon	00-15	16-33
Tues	34-48	49-66
Wed	67-81	82-99
Thur	Open	
Fri	Call-In	

Eastern Time

Receiving your benefits

You will report to the UIA by telephone to certify concerning your eligibility for benefits, using Michigan's Automated Response Voice Interactive Network (MARVIN). Your MARVIN appointment time is based on your Social Security number. To call MARVIN, dial its toll-free telephone number **1-866-638-3993**.

You must certify through MARVIN every other week in order to receive your unemployment benefits. UIA offers three benefit payment options – debit card, direct deposit into a checking or savings account or paper check..

Amount of unemployment benefits

UIA staff calculates how much you receive in unemployment benefits by multiplying the highest amount of wages paid to you in any base period quarter by 4.1%. The UIA adds \$6 for each dependent you claim, up to five dependents. The weekly benefit amount is capped at \$362.

To determine how many weeks of benefits you may receive, the UIA multiplies your total base period wages by 43%, and then divides that answer by your weekly benefit amount. The claim, however, cannot be less than 14 weeks or more than 26 weeks.

Receiving unemployment benefits while working

In some cases, you can accept part-time work while receiving unemployment benefits. However, your work must be less than full-time, and your benefits will be reduced according to *how much you earn in the week for which you are claiming benefits*.

There are three basic principles that affect how much you can earn while receiving unemployment benefits: **(1)** if your earnings are equal to or less than your weekly benefit amount, then your benefits are reduced by 50¢ for every dollar you earn; **(2)** if your earnings exceed your weekly benefit amount but are less than 1½ times your benefit amount, then your total earnings are subtracted from 1½ times your weekly benefit amount; and **(3)** the combination of your weekly benefits and earnings cannot exceed 1½ times your weekly benefit amount.

A point to remember: The number of weekly benefit payments remaining in your claim will be reduced by one full week for each week you receive *any* benefit payment.

For further information:

For general information about unemployment benefits, visit our website (www.michigan.gov/uia). If you have a question or problem with your telephone or Internet-filed claim, you can inquire about the claim by calling **1-866-500-0017** and selecting Option 3. This toll-free number is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We also have problem resolution offices in Gaylord, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Livonia, Marquette and Saginaw for in-person assistance with any problem you may have with your claim. (See our website for their locations.)

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	<u>20</u>	21
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
29	30	31				

February						
			1	2	3	4
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

DLEG is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more EO information, call DLEG's EO office at 313/456-2461. TTY services are available at 1-866-366-0004. Visit our website at www.michigan.gov/uia.



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