

ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS



To be eligible for unemployment benefits you must be:

- Available for Work – you are willing to accept any full-time work that is suitable, any day of the week and on any shift.
- Able to Work – you are physically and mentally able to do full-time work that you have performed in the past or have been trained for.
- Seeking Work – you are actively looking for full-time work (*see Steps to Reemployment on page 5*).

- In the calendar quarter you had your highest wages, you earned at least \$3,589.00.*
- In the entire four quarters of the base period you must have been paid at least 1.5 times the amount of wages you earned.

Wages to Establish a Claim

In every year there are four calendar quarters. They are:

QRT 1	QRT 2	QRT 3	QRT 4
Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec

To determine if you have enough wages to qualify for benefits UI first looks at what is called your Standard Base Period. This is a period of four calendar quarters. We look at the wages you were paid in the first four of the last five completed quarters.

- You must have wages in at least two calendar quarters in the base period.

STANDARD BASE PERIOD (First four quarters)				LAG QTR	FILE QTR
Must have earned at least \$3,589*				QTR 4 2018	QTR 1 2019
QTR 4 2017	QTR 1 2018	QTR 2 2018	QTR 3 2018		

If you do not meet the wage requirements using the Standard Base Period, you may be able to use the Alternate Base Period. UI automatically looks at your wages paid in the four most recently completed calendar quarters.

ALTERNATE BASE PERIOD (Four most recent quarters)					FILE QTR
Must have earned at least \$3,589*					QTR 1 2019
QTR 4 2017	QTR 1 2018	QTR 2 2018	QTR 3 2018	QTR 4 2018	

ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS CONT'D

If you don't meet the wage tests in either the Standard Base Period or the Alternate Base Period, you may still be able to qualify for benefits using the Alternate Earnings Qualifier. This means:

- You must have wages in at least two calendar quarters in the base period.
- In the calendar quarter in which you had the highest wages, your wages were at least 20 times the State Average Weekly Wage.

Weekly Benefit Amount

Your Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) is determined by your quarterly wages. The amount you receive in unemployment benefits is calculated by multiplying the highest amount of wages paid to you in any base period quarter by 4.1 percent. The maximum benefit payment you can receive is \$362. See your *Monetary Determination* for calculations using your information.

Number Of Qualifying Weeks

Your number of weeks allowed is determined by multiplying your total base period wages by 43 percent, dividing by your WBA and rounding down to the nearest half week. The maximum number of benefits is 20 and the minimum number of weeks is 14. See your *Monetary Determination*, for calculations using your information.

Your Separation Reason May Affect Your Eligibility for Benefits

To qualify for benefits, you must have lost your job through no fault of your own.

You have the right to leave a job for any reason at any time, but the reason for the separation will determine if and when you will receive benefits. If you are fired from your job, it is important to specify the reason. You

will be sent fact finding questions and it is important to include as much detailed information as possible. Once we receive all information from you and your employer, you will be sent your monetary determination showing whether or not you are eligible.

Other Items that May Affect Your Benefit Amount

Dependents – This includes any family member who received more than half of his/her support from you for at least 90 days before layoff. You can receive an additional \$6.00 for each dependent up to five dependents. Examples include: your spouse, children, step-children, disabled children, etc. See [Fact Sheet #158, What is a Dependent?](#) on the UI website. Click on Publications.

Taxes - Your UI benefits are taxable by the federal and State of Michigan government. You may choose to have both taxes withheld from your weekly payment. You may not choose to have one or the other withheld.

Federal income tax deductions are 10% of the taxable portion and the State of Michigan income tax deductions is 4%. The taxable portion is after pension, earnings, fraud penalties, overpayment recoupment, child support and other exemptions are deducted from your weekly benefit payment.

By the end of January of each year, you will be mailed Form 1099-G, *Certain Government Payments*, which reports benefits paid to you the previous calendar year. You will need this form to report your income for both the federal and state income tax purposes.