

Unemployment benefits

Unemployment benefits give eligible workers a temporary income when they lose their job through no fault of their own. The income is intended to partly replace lost earnings and help workers pay expenses while they look for a new job. Benefits last for up to 26 weeks. They are funded by taxes that employers pay and are not based on financial need. Learn more [about unemployment benefits](#).

Benefit payments

ESD calculates weekly benefit amounts (WBA) with a formula that uses people's earned wages during their [base year](#). As of July 2, 2023, most claimants are receiving a weekly benefit amount (WBA) from \$323 to \$1,019. Some claimants may receive less than \$323, as the WBA can never be more than their personal average weekly wage.

Tax rates

ESD determines tax rates using an employer's layoff history and shared costs of the program that can't be attributed to a specific employer.

- The 2024 average tax rate is 1.35%.
- [Determining tax rates](#).

Eligibility for benefits and how to apply

To be eligible, unemployed workers must have worked at least 680 hours in their base year. They must have also earned at least some wages from those hours in Washington. Some exceptions apply for workers who recently left the military or worked for the federal government. Eligibility also depends on why workers left their job or are not working full time.

In addition to submitting their application, workers maintain eligibility for benefits by filing a weekly claim that shows they were:

- Able to work.
- Available for work.
- Actively seeking work.
- Documenting their job search.

Learn more about [basic eligibility requirements](#).

The best way for unemployed workers to find out if they are eligible is to apply.

Online: Claimants must create a [SAW](#) and an [ESD eServices](#) account.

Phone: 800-318-6022, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ESD has [language support](#) for people with limited English proficiency and offers [reasonable accommodation](#) to people with disabilities or are in unusual circumstances.

Programs for workers and employers

Workers. In addition to regular unemployment benefits, ESD offers other programs to help unemployed workers. Examples include programs that waive job search requirements or pay for training while receiving unemployment benefits.

Employers. Resources for employers include [SharedWork](#) to help avoid layoffs. The Dislocated Worker program and Trade Adjustment Assistance can help employers with permanent layoffs.

Learn more about [layoff assistance](#) and [jobs and training](#).

Data and reporting

Find regularly updated unemployment data on the [benefits data dashboard](#), including:

- Number of people filing claims.
- Number of claims filed by month.
- Amount of benefits paid by month.
- Number of appeals and status.
- Unemployment call center statistics.
- Unemployment rate by month.

Contact

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