

The Clearinghouse on International Development in Child, Youth and Family Policies

Table 1.0 United States Unemployment Assistance Payment Rates and Benefit Duration

State and Taxable Wage Base	Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment (1)	Average Weekly Benefit 1/2001	2000 weekly benefits amount (7)		2000 potential duration (weeks)	
			Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Alabama (\$8,000)	1/24 of average of two highest quarters	\$ 157.32	\$ 45	\$ 190	15	26
Alaska (\$24,200)	4.4 - 0.9% of annual wages, plus \$24 per dependent up to \$72	\$ 195.77	\$44 - 68	\$248 - 320	16	26
Arizona (\$7,000)	1/25	\$ 168.16	\$ 40	\$ 205	12	26
Arkansas (\$9,000)	1/26 up to 66 2/3% of state average weekly wage	\$ 216.74	\$ 55	\$ 309	9	26
California (\$7,000)	1/23 to 1/33 (3)	\$ 161.65	\$ 40	\$ 230	14	26
Colorado (\$10,000)	60% of 1/26 of two highest quarters, up to 50% of 1/52 of base period wages	\$ 268.82	\$ 25	\$ 337	13	26
Connecticut (\$12,000)	1/26 of two highest quarters, up to 60% of state average weekly wage, plus \$10 per dependent up to 1/2 weekly benefit amount or five dependents.	\$ 273.28	\$15 - 30	\$382 - 457	26	26
Delaware (\$8,500)	(3)	\$ 224.44	\$ 20	\$ 315	24	26
Dist. of Columbia (\$10,000)	1/26 up to 50% of state average weekly wage, plus \$5 per dependent up to \$20	\$ 243.23	\$ 50	\$ 309	20	26
Florida (\$7,000)	1000	\$ 223.60	\$ 32	\$ 275	26	26
Georgia (\$8,500)	1/50 of two highest quarters (6)	\$ 218.77	\$ 39	\$ 264	9	26
Hawaii (\$26,000)	1/21 up to 70% of state average weekly wage	\$ 289.41	\$ 5	\$ 371	26	26
Idaho (\$22,800)	1/26 up to 60% of state average weekly wage	\$ 218.65	\$ 51	\$ 273	10	26
Illinois (\$9,000)	49.5% of claimant's average weekly wage in two highest quarters, up to 49.5% of state average weekly wage (3)	\$ 268.83	\$ 51	\$284 - 376	26	26
Indiana (\$7,000)	5% of first \$1,750 in high quarter, 4% of remaining high quarter wages	\$ 239.40	\$ 50	\$ 252	8	26
Iowa (\$15,200)	(2) (3)	\$ 250.19	\$39 - 47	\$263 - 323	7	26
Kansas (\$8,000)	4.25% of high quarter wages, up to 60% of state average weekly wage	\$ 259.36	\$ 76	\$ 306	10	26
Kentucky (\$8,000)	1.185% of base period wages, up to 55% of state average weekly wage	\$ 228.79	\$ 39	\$ 316	15	26
Louisiana (\$7,700)	1/25 of 4 quarters (5)	\$ 194.24	\$ 10	\$ 258	26	26
Maine (\$7,000)	1/22 up to 52% of state average weekly wage, plus \$10 per dependent up to 1/2 weekly benefit amount	\$ 210.90	\$41 - 60	\$254 - 381	26	26
Maryland (\$8,500)	1/24 plus \$8 per dependent up to \$40	\$ 225.66	\$25 - 33	\$ 250	26	26
Massachusetts (\$10,800)	1/21 - 1/26 up to 57.5% of state average weekly wage, plus \$25 per dependent up to 1/2 weekly benefit amount (2)	\$ 308.19	\$27 - 40	\$431 - 646	10	30
Michigan (\$9,500)	70% of claimant's after-tax earnings, up to a maximum of 58% of state average weekly wage.	\$ 249.71	\$ 87	\$ 300	15	26
Minnesota (\$16,300)	1/26 (3)	\$ 327.99	\$ 38	\$331 - 410	10	26
Mississippi (\$7,000)	1/26	\$ 159.41	\$ 30	\$ 190	13	26
Missouri (\$8,000)	4.5%	\$ 196.27	\$ 45	\$ 220	11	26
Montana (\$16,000)	1% of base period wages or 1.9% of wages in two highest quarters, up to 60% of state average weekly wage	\$ 193.89	\$ 63	\$ 254	8	26
Nebraska (\$7,000)	1/20 - 1/24	\$ 197.40	\$ 36	\$ 206	20	26
Nevada (17,200)	1/25 up to 50% of state average weekly wage	\$ 226.80	\$ 16	\$ 282	12	26
New Hampshire (\$8,000)	.08 - 1.1% of annual wages	\$ 220.11	\$ 32	\$ 301	26	26
New Jersey (\$18,600)	60% of claimant's average weekly wage, plus dependents' allowance, up to 56 2/3% of state average weekly wage	\$ 295.37	\$ -	\$ 429	15	26
New Mexico (\$14,200)	1/26, not less than 10% nor more than 50% of state average weekly wage	\$ 179.54	\$ 48	\$ 254	19	26

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State and Taxable Wage Base	Weekly benefit amount for total unemployment (1)	Average Weekly Benefit 1/2001	2000 weekly benefits amount (7)		2000 potential duration (weeks)	
			Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
North Dakota (\$14,200)	1/65 of two highest quarters and 1/2 total wages in third quarter, up to 60% of state average weekly wage (5)	\$ 223.64	\$ 43	\$ 283	12	26
Ohio (\$9,000)	1/2 claimant's average weekly wage, plus dependents' allowance of \$1-\$83 based on the claimant's average weekly wage and number of dependents	\$ 246.13	\$ 77	\$279 - 375	20	26
Oklahoma (\$11,000)	1/25 (4)	\$ 215.45	\$ 16	\$ 283	20	26
Oregon (\$20,000)	1.25% of base period wage, up to 64% of state average weekly wage	\$ 238.62	\$ 84	\$ 360	4	26
Pennsylvania (\$8,000)	1/23 - 1/25 up to 66 2/3% of state average weekly wage plus \$5 for one dependent; \$3 for second	\$ 274.00	\$35 - 40	\$408 - 416	16	26
Puerto Rico (\$7,000)	1/11 - 1/26 up to 50% of state average weekly wage	\$ 104.78	\$ 7	\$ 133	26	26
Rhode Island (\$17,600)	4.62% of higher quarter wages up to 67% of state average weekly wage, plus greater of \$10 or 5% of the benefit rate per dependent up to 5 dependents	\$ 287.13	\$52 - 102	\$383 - 478	15	26
South Carolina (\$7,000)	1/26 up to 66 2/3% of state average weekly wage	\$ 193.60	\$ 20	\$ 248	15	26
South Dakota (\$7,000)	1/26 up to 50% of state average weekly wage	\$ 190.85	\$ 28	\$ 214	15	26
Tennessee (\$7,000)	1/26 of average two highest quarters	\$ 192.67	\$ 30	\$ 255	12	26
Texas (\$9,000)	1/25 (6)	\$ 229.06	\$ 48	\$ 294	9	26
Utah (\$17,800)	1/26 up to 60% of state insured average fiscal year weekly wage	\$ 221.30	\$ 20	\$ 309	10	26
Vermont (\$8,000)	(3)	\$ 233.92	\$ 40	\$ 287	26	26
Virginia (\$8,000)	1/50 of wage in two highest quarts	\$ 207.20	\$ 50	\$ 230	12	26
Virgin Islands (\$14,000)	1/26 up to 50% of state average weekly wage	\$ 209.09	\$ 32	\$ 233	13	26
Washington (\$21,300)	1/25 of average of two highest quarters, up to 70% of state average weekly wage	\$ 289.72	\$ 94	\$ 441	16	30
West Virginia (\$8,000)	1.0% of annual wage up to 66 2/3% of state average weekly wage	\$ 202.66	\$ 24	\$ 318	26	26
Wisconsin (\$10,500)	4% of higher-quarter wages up to maximum weekly benefit amount	\$ 240.41	\$ 44	\$ 297	12	26
Wyoming (\$12,200)	4% of higher-quarter wages up to 55% of state average weekly wage (4)	\$ 213.27	\$ 19	\$ 261	12	26

Sources: Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives 2000 Greenbook Washington D.C.: GPO, Social Security Administration. Social Security Programs in the United States. U.S. Department of Labor (2001). Summary Data for State Programs. Retrieved Nov. 20, 2001 from the U.S. Department of Labor website at <http://www.workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/txdocs/sumjan01.html>.

Notes: (1) When two amounts are given, the higher includes dependents' allowances. In the Dist. Of Columbia, Maryland, and New Jersey the maximum is the same with or without dependents' allowances. Higher for minimum weekly benefit amount includes maximum allowance for one dependent.
 (2) When states use a weighted high quarter, annual wage, or average weekly wage formula, approximate fractions or percentages are figured at midpoint of lowest and highest normal wage brackets. When dependents' allowances are provided, the fraction applies to the basic weekly benefit amount and who have one to three dependents. In Iowa and Ohio, claimants may be eligible for an augmented amount at all benefit levels but benefit amount above the basic maximum are available only to claimants in dependency classes whose high-quarter wages or average weekly wage are higher than that required for a maximum basic benefit. In Massachusetts, for claimants with an average weekly wage in excess of \$66 the weekly benefit amount is computed at 1/26 of the two highest quarters of earnings or 1/13 of highest quarter if the claimant has not more than two quarters.

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(3) To 58.5% state average weekly wage if claimant has nonworking spouse; 65.5% if claimant has dependent child, two quarter if the trust fund balance is at least \$90 million or is 1/52 of wages in highest two quarters if the trust fund balance is less \$90 million, Delaware; a state average weekly wage ranging from 60% to 66 2/3% depending on the balance of the fund, Minnesota; wages in the two highest quarters divided by 45, Vermont; if high quarter wages exceed \$4,966.99, the maximum weekly benefit amount will be \$225, and if the trust fund balance is less than \$90 million the maximum weekly benefit amount will be \$205, Delaware; weekly benefit amount reflects a 7% decrease and a 5% discount from the computed maximum of \$205, Louisiana.

(4) Weekly benefit amount will be reduced by 5% or by the reduction determined by a trigger mechanism, but the weekly benefit amount may not be reduced to less than half the maximum weekly benefit amount, Pennsylvania; weekly benefit amount over \$90 will be reduced to 85% of the computed amount when revenues in the fund are inadequate to pay benefits, Wyoming; the greater of \$197 or 60%, 57.5%, 55%, 52.5%, or 50% of state average weekly wage of the second preceding calendar year depending on the condition of the fund, Oklahoma; if the trust fund balance is less than \$165 million but equal to or greater than \$90 million, the maximum weekly benefit amount will be \$225, and if the trust fund reflects a 7% decrease and a 5% discount from the computed maximum of \$205, Louisiana.

(5) Up to 66 -2/3% of state average weekly wage, Louisiana; 62% of state average weekly wage depending on the trust fund reserves or 65% of state average weekly wage depending on trust fund reserves and the states average contribution rate if below the nationwide average for the preceding year, North Dakota.

(6) Maximum amount adjusted annually: by same percentage increase as occurs in state average weekly wage, Ohio; by \$7 for each \$10 increase in average weekly wage of manufacturing product in workers, Texas.

(7) A range of amounts is show for those states that provide dependents' allowance.