

POLICY BASICS

How Many Weeks of Unemployment Compensation Are Available?

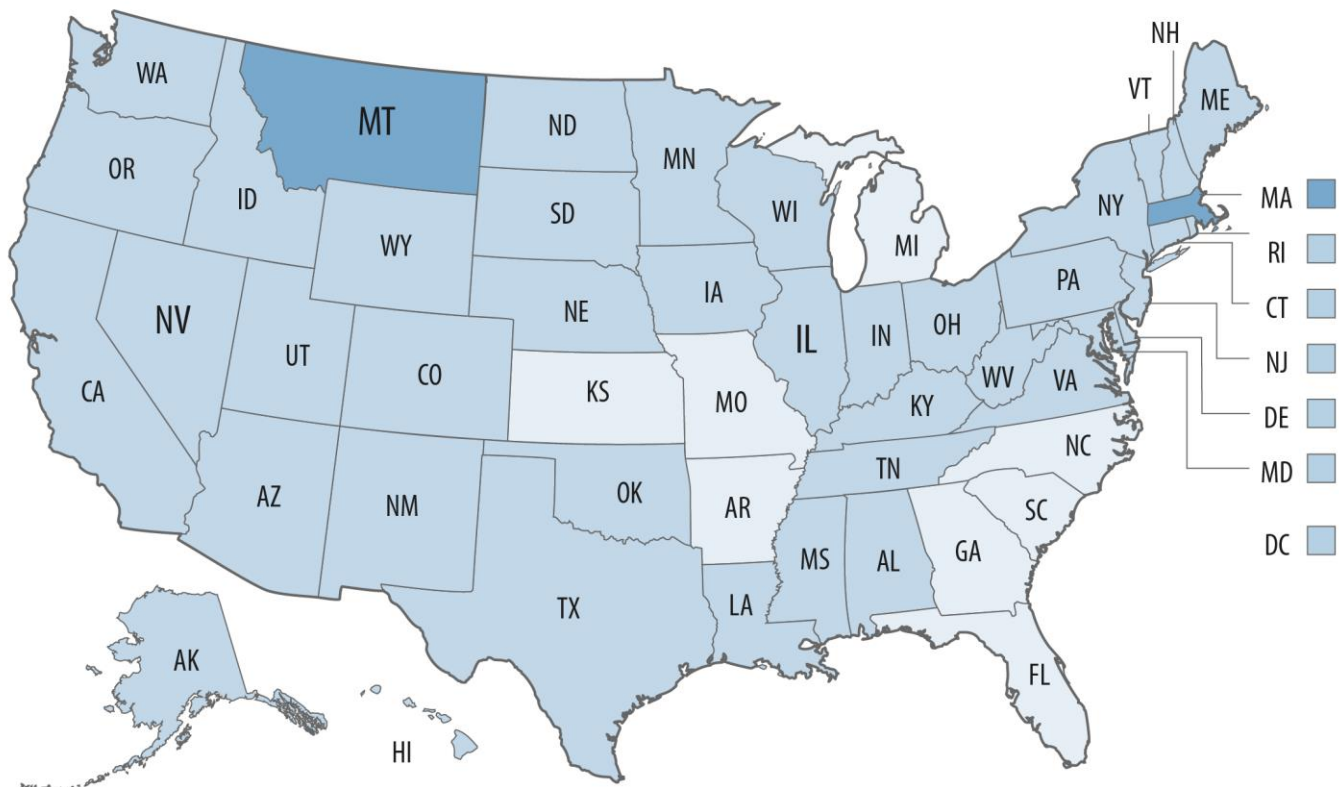
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The unemployment insurance (UI) system helps many people who have lost their jobs by temporarily replacing part of their wages. (See "[Introduction to Unemployment Insurance](#).") Workers in most states are eligible for up to 26 weeks of benefits from the regular state-funded unemployment compensation program, although eight states provide fewer weeks and two provide more. (Emergency Unemployment Compensation, a temporary federal program that provided additional weeks of benefits to workers who exhausted their regular state UI before finding a job, expired at the end of 2013.)

The map below shows the maximum number of weeks of benefits currently available in each state.

Maximum Duration of Unemployment Insurance

fewer than 26 weeks 26 weeks more than 26 weeks



Note: Map shows regular benefits after expiration of federal emergency unemployment benefits at the end of 2013.

The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico both have 26 weeks of regular unemployment insurance (UI).

Source: Congressional Research Service.

Of the states not providing the standard 26-week maximum:

- Massachusetts provides up to 30 weeks of UI in the absence of a federal emergency unemployment compensation program. When a federal program is in place, Massachusetts provides the usual maximum of 26 weeks;
- Montana provides up to 28 weeks of UI;
- Arkansas provides up to 25 weeks of UI; and
- Michigan, Missouri, and South Carolina provide up to 20 weeks of UI.

The remaining four states periodically update their maximum weeks of UI available based on changes in the state's unemployment rate:

- Kansas provides up to 16 weeks of UI for new claimants in 2015, after providing up to 20 weeks in 2014;
- Florida provides up to 14 weeks of UI for new claimants in 2015, after providing up to 16 weeks in 2014;
- Georgia provides up to 17 weeks of UI for new claimants in 2015, after providing up to 15 weeks in the second half of 2014; and
- North Carolina provides up to 15 weeks of UI for new claimants in 2015, after providing up to 14 weeks in the second half of 2014.

The table below shows the latest three-month average unemployment rate for each state over November 2014-January 2015, as well as the maximum number of weeks of UI benefits currently available in each state through regular UI.

Unemployment Rates and Weeks of Unemployment Insurance (UI) Available

State	Unemployment (3 month avg.)	Reg. UI available
Alabama	6.1%	26 wks
Alaska	6.4%	26 wks
Arizona	6.6%	26 wks
Arkansas	5.7%	25 wks
California	7.1%	26 wks
Colorado	4.2%	26 wks
Connecticut	6.3%	26 wks
Delaware	5.2%	26 wks
District of Columbia	7.7%	26 wks
Florida	5.7%	16 wks
<i>initial claims after 1/1/15</i>	5.7%	14 wks
Georgia	6.5%	15 wks
<i>initial claims after 1/1/15</i>	6.5%	17 wks
Hawaii	4.1%	26 wks
Idaho	4.3%	26 wks
Illinois	6.2%	26 wks
Indiana	5.9%	26 wks
Iowa	4.3%	26 wks
Kansas	4.2%	20 wks
<i>initial claims after 1/1/15</i>	4.2%	16 wks
Kentucky	5.5%	26 wks
Louisiana	7.1%	26 wks
Maine	5.4%	26 wks
Maryland	5.5%	26 wks
Massachusetts	5.3%	30 wks
Michigan	6.4%	20 wks
Minnesota	3.7%	26 wks
Mississippi	7.2%	26 wks
Missouri	5.4%	20 wks
Montana	4.5%	28 wks
Nebraska	3.0%	26 wks
Nevada	7.1%	26 wks
New Hampshire	4.0%	26 wks
New Jersey	6.3%	26 wks
New Mexico	6.0%	26 wks
New York	5.8%	26 wks
North Carolina	5.4%	14 wks
<i>initial claims after 1/1/15</i>	5.4%	15 wks
North Dakota	2.8%	26 wks
Ohio	5.1%	26 wks
Oklahoma	3.9%	26 wks
Oregon	6.6%	26 wks
Pennsylvania	5.1%	26 wks
Puerto Rico	13.3%	26 wks
Rhode Island	6.7%	26 wks
South Carolina	6.6%	20 wks
South Dakota	3.3%	26 wks
Tennessee	6.6%	26 wks
Texas	4.5%	26 wks
Utah	3.5%	26 wks
Vermont	4.1%	26 wks
Virgin Islands	7.7%	26 wks
Virginia	4.8%	26 wks
Washington	6.3%	26 wks
West Virginia	5.9%	26 wks
Wisconsin	5.1%	26 wks
Wyoming	4.2%	26 wks