

NY Unemployment Insurance

What is NY Unemployment Insurance?

The New York State Department of Labor defines Unemployment Insurance (UI) as “ temporary income for eligible workers who became unemployed through no fault of their own and who are ready, willing, and able to work.” Deductions for this benefit are never made from a worker’s paycheck; instead UI is funded by taxes paid for by employers. The Department of Labor determines whether an unemployed worker qualifies for unemployment benefits. This summer Governor Paterson signed an agreement to extend unemployment benefits for a maximum of 39 weeks.

How do I apply?

Claims should be filed within one week after your last day of work. This first week is an unpaid “waiting week”, but a delay in filing could cost you future benefits. The most efficient way to apply for unemployment insurance is to visit the New York State Department of Labor website at <http://www.labor.state.ny.us/unemploymentassistance.shtm>. Through the website you can file a claim between the following hours:

Monday through Thursday - 7:30 am to 7:30 pm (EST)

Friday between the hours of 7:30 am to 5:00 pm (EST)

All day Saturday and Sunday until 7:00 pm (EST)

Claims can also be filed using the toll-free Telephone Claims Center at 1-888-209-8124 for NY State residents or 1-877-358-5306 for out of state residents. The Telephone Center is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

If you have never filed a claim, you will be asked to create a confidential Personal Identification Number. If you forget your PIN, it can be reset using your social security number. The NY Department of Labor recommends that you have the following information available before you file:

Your Social Security Number

NY State driver’s license or motor vehicle ID card number (if applicable)

Complete mailing address and zip code

Telephone number where you can be contacted 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday

Your Alien Registration card number (if you are not a U.S. Citizen)

The names and addresses of all employers for whom you’ve worked within the last 18 months, including employers in another state

Employer Registration number or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) of your most recent employer (can be found on your W-2 forms)

Your copies of forms SF8 and SF50, if you had federal employment within the last 18 months

If you do not have a printer, have a pen and paper handy in order to write down important information

If you would like to have your weekly benefits direct deposited, make sure to have a check available so you can provide necessary bank information

Without all of this information, you can still file a claim, however there might be a delay in receiving your first payment

Once filed, you can track your claim’s progress by logging in to the website in a confidential and secure manner using your unique PIN. Please also refer to the website for additional information regarding the UI benefit process.

