

YOU CAN APPLY THREE WAYS:

1. Online: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment-benefits>
2. By phone/TeleClaim Center:
From area codes 351, 413, 508, 774 and 978: dial (877) 626-6800
From any other area code - (617) 626-6800
3. In Person:
You can visit the Boston walk-in center located at 19 Staniford St., Boston, MA 02114 to get in person assistance with a member of our staff. The walk-in center is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A worker can apply within the first week after separation from employment but there will be a one week waiting period before a worker is eligible for benefits. The first check takes 3-4 weeks to arrive. After that weekly benefits should arrive weekly either by direct deposit or on the debit card issued to the beneficiary.

WHAT INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:

To apply for unemployment, you need to provide personal information including:

- Social Security number,
- birth date,
- home address,
- email address (optional),
- phone number.

You also need information about your employment history from the last 15 months, including:

- Names of all employers, plus addresses and phone numbers
- Reasons you are not at those jobs (unless you still have some of them)
- start and end dates for each job
- Recall date (if you were laid off but you have a set date to return to work)

You may need additional information in certain situations:

- If you are not a U.S. citizen — your Alien Registration number
- If you have children — their birth dates and Social Security numbers
- If you're in a union — your union name and local number
- If you were in the military — your DD-214 Member 4 form. If you don't have it, you can [request your DD-214 online](#).
- If you worked for the federal government — your SF8 form (optional)

To receive payments by **direct deposit**, you'll also need your bank name, account number, and routing number. Otherwise, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will send you a **debit card**.

THE BENEFIT

If a worker is eligible to receive unemployment benefits, she will receive a weekly benefit amount of 50% of the average weekly wage, up to the maximum set by law. As of October 2019, the maximum weekly benefit amount is \$823 per week

A worker cannot receive unemployment benefits if she is working full time. “Full-time” (for unemployment purposes) usually means 35 hours/week or more.

Re: PT earnings

1. A worker can get UI from her principle job even if she is working another part-time job.
2. In that situation, she would collect the first one-third of her UI weekly benefit earnings (which is 50% the earnings of the lost work), and the remaining two-thirds are reduced dollar for dollar by the amount earning in the part-time job/s.

While collecting benefits

1. The Benefits recipient must be looking for work to replace that which was lost.
2. Must report all earnings made each week to the Department of Unemployment Assistance.