New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Your Rights & Responsibilities

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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
LWD
LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
nj.gov/labor

Unemployment Insurance
Your Rights and Responsibilities

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Your Path to Employment...
Reemployment Services

When you lose your job

- ❑ File for unemployment insurance benefits immediately. This publication will explain the process.
- ❑ Use *New Jersey Career Connections* to assist you in your search for employment.
  http://careerconnections.nj.gov

New Jersey Career Connections

Losing a job can be difficult. To help you determine the next steps in your career, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) has created New Jersey Career Connections. New Jersey Career Connections offers an easy-to-follow and effective plan for success: *The Path to Employment*.

Here's how it works . . .

As with most tasks, it's important to break your employment search into stages. *The Path to Employment* consists of three stages: *Plan*, *Prepare*, and *Succeed*. Each stage provides activities and information to help you navigate your job search. In the *Plan* stage, you consider your current skills and interests and explore the job market, as well as apply for funding assistance, if needed, and prepare a personal budget. Next, you move on to the *Prepare* stage, where you research and attend skills trainings, sharpen existing skills, build and enhance your resume, and learn interview and job-search skills. Finally, in the *Succeed* stage, you pursue your chosen job opportunities with confidence, applying the tools and skills you acquired to achieve your career goals.

New Jersey Career Connections is accessible online and in person. The New Jersey Career Connections website, *careerconnections.nj.gov*, allows you to work independently, using online tools and resources as you so choose. The website includes interactive tools, including OnRamp (our online job board and job-match tool) and a career navigation module. Other resources on the website include a directory of training programs, information on hundreds of careers, and advice and guidance on a wide variety of topics, including networking, searching for employment, and preparing for interviews. For in-person assistance, you can visit New Jersey Career Connections locations throughout the state, including One-Stop Career Centers, local libraries, and community colleges. Career coaches at these locations are trained in the use of online resources and can provide additional tools and advice to help you succeed on your path to employment.

As the primary sites for New Jersey Career Connections services, One-Stop Career Centers offer you the most services and provide you the most direction. Most One-Stop Career Centers offer

- skills assessments
- free computer tutorials to refresh your math, English, and basic computer skills
- financial advice, including information on financial aid, tuition waivers, and training grants
- information on apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs, and
- access to Jersey Job Clubs, which provide networking opportunities, access to employment-search workshops, and one-on-one employment-search assistance.

Be sure to contact your local One-Stop Career Center to determine the specific services offered at your location.

Connect with *New Jersey Career Connections* online!

Website: *careerconnections.nj.gov*

New Jersey Career Connections locations and contact information: *http://njcc.nj.gov/locations*

About this publication

If you are currently unemployed through no fault of your own, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. As a person claiming benefits, you have both rights and responsibilities. Read this publication carefully and completely. It contains important information that should answer most of your questions about unemployment insurance benefits.

This publication gives only general information. It is not the law. It is not a regulation. It is not legal advice.

Your rights

Equal opportunity is the law

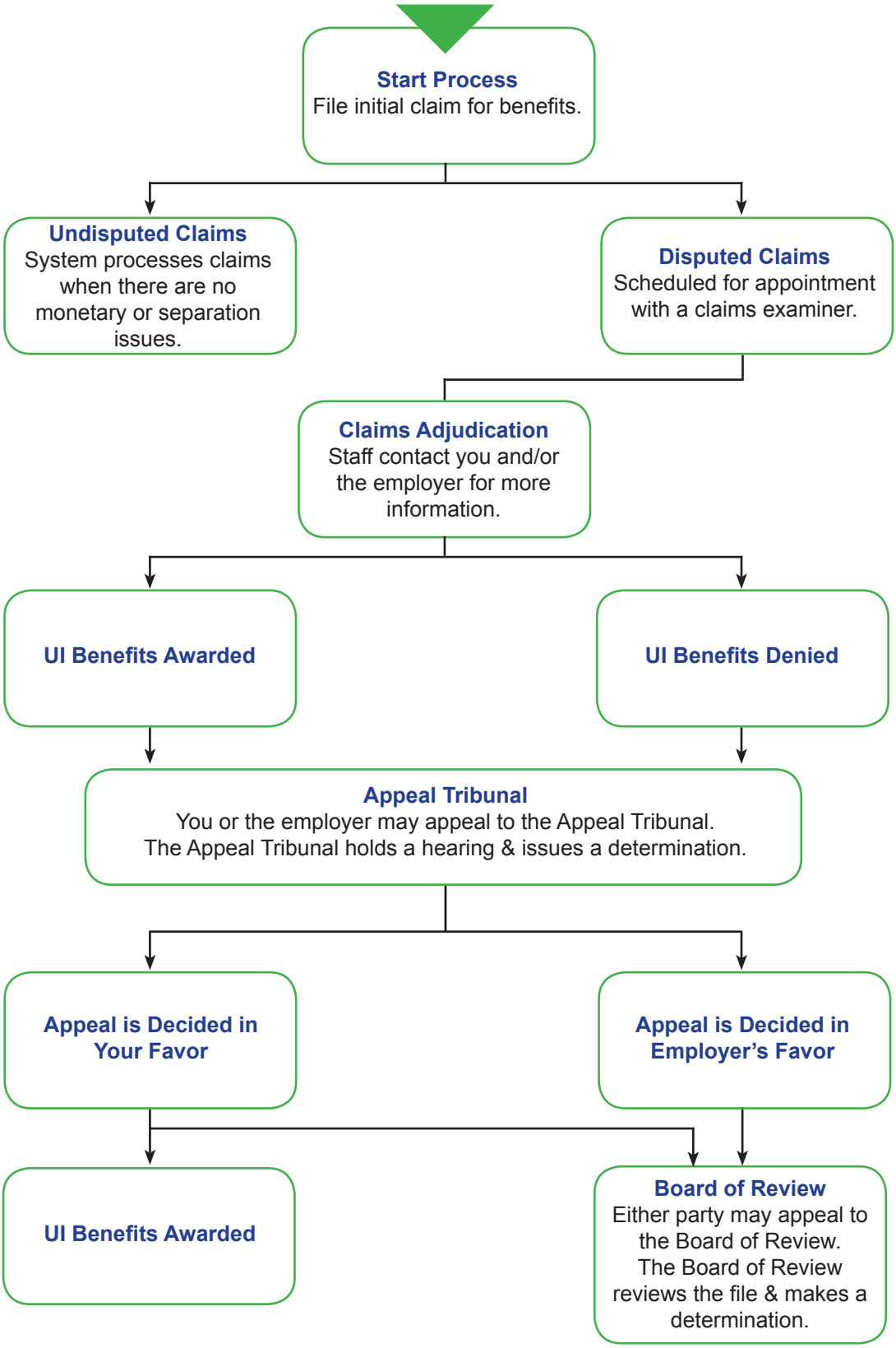
It is against the law for this department to discriminate against recipients of federal financial assistance (unemployment insurance benefits) based on specific criteria. Read about your equal opportunity rights *here*. [nj.gov/labor/EqualOpportunity]

Your privacy

All records, reports and other information obtained from employers and employees under the Unemployment Compensation Law are confidential and are not published or open to public inspection. However, public employees may access this information as part of their public duties. If you are party to a hearing before the Division of Unemployment Insurance, the Appeals Tribunal or the Board of Review, you will be given information from such records to the extent necessary to properly present your claim.

UI BENEFITS PROCESS FLOWCHART

This chart shows the basic process for claiming unemployment insurance benefits from the moment a claim is filed, with the potential outcomes at each step of the process.



What is unemployment insurance?

Unemployment insurance (UI) is a program that gives financial support to people who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The money to pay these benefits comes from a payroll tax paid by employers and workers. The benefits partially replace your wages and are meant to help you meet your financial responsibilities while looking for work. To qualify for unemployment insurance benefits, you must meet all of the eligibility requirements of New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Law. Those who meet the requirements may receive unemployment insurance benefits for up to 26 weeks during a 1-year period.

People who are claiming unemployment insurance benefits are sometimes referred to as "claimants." You will see that word in this publication and on our website.

Unemployment insurance fraud

Unemployment insurance is a safety net for you and your family. It is a crime to fraudulently collect unemployment insurance benefits. Do not jeopardize your benefits by committing fraud.

We look for and aggressively pursue all unemployment insurance fraud. We cross-match our data with other state and federal government agencies to confirm the work status and unreported earnings of people who claim unemployment insurance benefits. We conduct random investigations to review your eligibility, payroll records, and work search contacts. If your case is picked for a spot check, we will contact you to schedule an interview.

You are committing fraud when you

- knowingly do not report earnings. You must report *all* earnings, from *all* employers, even if you have not been paid yet. If you are in doubt, report the earnings.
- do not give the true reason why you became unemployed
- hide or lie about any fact that could make you ineligible for benefits or reduce your benefit amount
- use someone else's identity to claim or get benefits
- do not tell us that you have returned to work
- allow someone else to certify for benefits on your behalf
- alter, buy, sell or counterfeit a Social Security card. This is a felony under federal law. Felony crimes are punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.

If you commit fraud,

- you may face criminal prosecution and imprisonment
- you may incur severe fines and penalties
- your state or federal income tax refunds may be garnished to satisfy any money owed

- you can be denied unemployment benefits in the future
- you must repay the benefits you received — plus interest and penalties.

Report fraud

If you suspect someone is illegally collecting unemployment benefits or committing fraud, you can report it *online*. [nj.gov/labor/ReportFraud] You do not have to give your name.

How to file an initial UI claim

If you need to …

- apply for unemployment insurance benefits (file an initial claim)
- reopen a claim* (reapply for benefits) after a period of employment, or
- reactivate your claim after any period of claim inactivity

... do so as soon as possible. Your claim doesn't begin until you file. A delay in filing results in delayed payment of your UI benefits. The system will not allow you to "backdate" claims for weeks you have missed. If you need to claim UI benefits for missed weeks, you can request an interview with a claims examiner. Call your closest Reemployment Call Center:

North New Jersey (Union City):	201-601-4100
Central New Jersey (Freehold):	732-761-2020
South New Jersey (Vineland):	856-507-2340
Out-of-State Claims:	1-888-795-6672 — *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

The easiest, quickest way is to file online at *njuifile.net*. However, people who have military, federal, or out-of-state wages, or people who earned wages while working for a maritime employer, must file by calling a Reemployment Call Center (phone numbers shown above).

* Read more about reopening a claim in the *"Ways to File" section* of this publication.

Information you will need to provide

Before you file your initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits, gather the information you need:

About yourself

- Social Security number
- home address, mailing address (if different than your home address) and phone number
- alien registration number, if you are not a U.S. citizen or national
- DD Form 214, if you were on active duty in the U.S. military in the last 2 years
- information from W-2s and or pay stubs
- information from Standard Form 8, Standard Form 50, if you worked for the federal government in the last 18 months.
- banking information if you choose to receive benefits by direct deposit
- New Jersey driver's license number or non-driver photo identification card number

About your employer

- name of your last employer, or your current employer who has reduced the number of hours you work
- complete mailing address and phone number of your last employer
- date you started working for that employer
- last date you worked for the employer
- reason you left, or the reason you are working fewer hours than you were first hired to work.

About your work history

- name, complete address, and phone number for each employer you worked for in the last 18 months
- start and end dates for each job you had in the last 18 months, and the reason(s) you are no longer working for each employer.

Identity proofing

For your protection, and for the protection of everyone who needs unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, we now use an "identity proofing" process.

When you file an initial claim for UI benefits, we will ask you to confirm your identity. Several multiple-choice questions will ask about your background based on information from public records. We do *not* retain any information used to verify your identity.

If you do not participate in the identity proofing process, you may continue filing your initial claim or claiming UI benefit payments. However, *we will not issue any unemployment insurance benefit payments until we have verified your identity.*

If you fail identity proofing or do not participate, we will mail you instructions to report, in person, to a UI staff member in one of our designated One-Stop Career Centers with acceptable documentation. Offices are open Monday – Friday (except state holidays), 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. We recommend that you arrive before 4:00 to allow enough time to complete your business before the office closes. Designated *One-Stop Career Centers that have UI staff* are listed online. [nj.gov/labor/ui/offices]

To prove your identity, you must provide original or certified copies of your Social Security card and other documents that show your name and current mailing address. Mail addressed to a post office box is not an acceptable proof of address. We will mail you instructions explaining this process and the types of documents we will accept.

If you live out of state, you may be able to fax documents to prove your identity. If you qualify as an out-of-state claimant, we will mail you instructions explaining how to prove your identity.

Ways to file an initial claim

File online

- Turn off any "pop-up blocker" on the computer you are using. Pop-up windows display important information, both when you are filing your initial claim and also when certifying your weekly claim.
- File your initial claim for benefits at *njuifile.net.*
- Follow the instructions for filing a claim.
- If you do not have access to the internet, you can file using a computer at your local One-Stop Career Center — locations on *page 35* and *here.* [njcc.nj.gov/locations]

Your online ID and password

When you file your initial claim online, you will be prompted to create an online ID and password. Write this information down, keep it in a safe place, and do not share this information with anyone. You will need your online ID and password when you certify your claim online each week. You will also need this information to get form 1099-G so you can file your taxes. If you forget your password, first try to retrieve it using the security questions. If you still can't access your claim, call your local Reemployment Call Center.

File by phone

Call one of these Reemployment Call Centers

North New Jersey (Union City):	201-601-4100
Central New Jersey (Freehold):	732-761-2020
South New Jersey (Vineland):	856-507-2340
Out-of-State claims:	1-888-795-6672 — *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

Your personal identification number (PIN)

When you file an initial claim by phone, you will choose a four-digit personal identification number (PIN). Write down your PIN and keep it in a safe, secure place. You will need your PIN to certify for your benefits. Your PIN is good for 1 year. If you forget your PIN, call your local Reemployment Call Center, and ask the representative to reset your PIN.

How to reopen a claim (reapply for unemployment insurance benefits)

You have 1 year from when you file your initial claim to collect the maximum full balance of your UI benefits (up to 26 weeks if you qualify). You may reopen a claim when

- you become unemployed again after a period of employment, or
- you were previously ineligible or disqualified for UI benefits, and the reason(s) why you were ineligible no longer apply.

You can reopen an existing claim online at *njuifile.net*, or by phone calling a Reemployment Call Center.

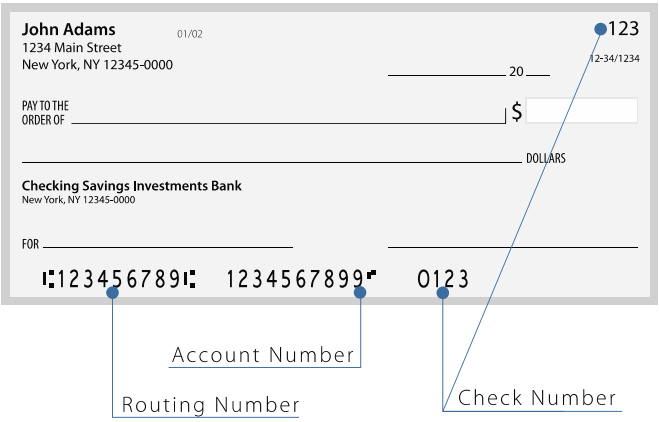
Payment options

There are 2 ways to receive UI benefit payments: by debit card or by direct deposit. When you file your initial claim, you may choose how you want to receive your benefits. You will get your benefits by prepaid debit card (the default option), unless you sign up for direct deposit.

By direct deposit

If you want UI benefit payments deposited directly into your checking or savings account, choose that option when you first file your claim, or complete the direct deposit application any time *online.* [njuifile.net]
You will need your

- bank name
- account number
- bank routing number.



If you choose to receive UI benefits by direct deposit, the money will usually be available in your account within 2 business days after you claim your benefits. You may apply for direct deposit either online at *njuifile.net*, or print out and submit form BC-502, "Authorization for Benefit Payment by Direct Deposit or Debit Card," found on *page 37*. Mail the form to:

Unemployment Insurance, Checkmaster Unit
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
P.O. Box 908
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0908

or fax it to (609) 777-2444

NOTE: The telephone certification system will not give you the direct deposit option. To choose direct deposit, you must do so either online or by mail.

If you want to switch to direct deposit from a debit card or from another direct deposit account, it may take a day to process the request. If you want this week's UI benefits to be paid by direct deposit or to a different account, sign up for direct deposit, then wait until the next day to certify for your benefits. If you sign up for direct deposit *after* you certify by phone, this week's benefits will be paid by debit card or to the existing direct deposit account on file.

By prepaid debit card

If you do not choose direct deposit, you will receive a prepaid Bank of America debit card. If you choose to receive benefits by prepaid debit card, the money will usually be available in your account within 2 business days after you claim your benefits.

If more than 28 days have passed since you certified for UI benefits, the system automatically switches to payment by debit card. Bank of America mails the card to you in a plain, unmarked envelope within 7 days of when you file your initial claim. Watch your mail for it. The card comes with detailed instructions. This card is good for 4 years. ***You should keep this card for 4 years***, even after you return to work or your claim expires. If you need to reopen a claim or file a new claim within 4 years, you will use this same card for these claims.

If you lose your card and need a replacement, call Bank of America at 1-866-213-4074. Operators are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Do you qualify?

Eligibility for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits depends on 2 things (explained in detail below):

1. How much money you earned in your "base period."
2. The reason you are unemployed. Unemployment insurance benefits are meant for people who lose their job "through no fault of their own," such as an employer's lack of work.

1) How much did you earn in your base period?

Your UI benefit amount depends on how much money you earned in your "base period." We calculate your weekly benefit amount and maximum benefits payable based on wage information your employer(s) report. In New Jersey, the maximum weekly benefit amount for 2017 is $677.

Regular base period

A *regular* base period is the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters before the week you file an initial claim. The wages you earned during this period are used to determine if you qualify for UI benefits and to calculate your UI benefit amount.

For claims filed in 2017: In your base period, you must have 20 base weeks or gross wages that total at least $8,400. A base week is one in which you earn at least $168.

The chart below will help you identify your base period. The month in green represents the month in which you are filing your initial claim. The quarters on the left in yellow indicate your base period, which in this case is a base year.

Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	July Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	July Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun		
		Apr May Jun	July Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	July Aug Sep	
			July Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	July Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec

Alternate base periods

If you don't qualify for UI benefits using the regular base period, we will check if you qualify using an alternate base period. Alternate base period #1 includes wages earned in the 4 most recently completed quarters before your date of claim. Alternate base period #2 is the 3 most recently completed quarters between your date of claim and the weeks in the filing quarter up to your date of claim.

2) Why are you unemployed?

Only people who become unemployed through no fault of their own may qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. If you are unemployed due to a reason other than lack of work, a claims examiner will conduct a fact-finding interview to determine whether you are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Your employer may be invited to participate. The claims examiner will review the facts that you and your employer(s) provide, and determine your eligibility based on the law.

If you quit: If you voluntarily left your job without good, work-related reasons, you may not qualify for benefits.

If you were fired for misconduct: If you were fired for misconduct, your benefits may be delayed or denied.

If you have a fact-finding phone interview with a claims examiner

If you voluntarily left your job or were fired, we will call to ask you for more information about your separation. Your employer may be invited to participate in this conference call.

- Caller ID shows the telephone numbers of the claims examiner as private, unknown, out-of-area, anonymous, etc. If your phone has other features or devices to block calls, those features should be turned off on the day of your appointment. You must accept this call: You will be considered as failing to appear if we cannot reach you for this interview.
- If we determine that you are not eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits, you may appeal this decision. (See the *Appeal Tribunal* section for more information.)

To remain eligible

To remain eligible for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, you must:

1) Keep all scheduled appointments

If you are scheduled for an in-person meeting or interview, you must report on the day and at the time scheduled. If you are scheduled for an interview by phone, we will make every effort to call at the scheduled time. Since an unexpected delay may occur, you must be available for 2 hours after the scheduled appointment time.

For your appointments you have the following rights:

1. You may represent yourself or you may be represented at your own expense by an attorney or non-attorney,
2. You may request a postponement, if you require additional time to prepare for the interview,
3. You may request that your employer produce any documents which relate to your eligibility for benefits,
4. You may request that statements be taken from your witnesses who have firsthand knowledge of the case,
5. You or your representative will have the opportunity to question your own witness, present documents and provide a closing statement or summary, and
6. If the reason for the appointment is related to your employment, any questions that you may have for your former employer may be asked of the agency representative who in turn may, at his/her discretion, pose the question(s) to your former employer.

It is important that we have your current phone number. Let us know immediately if your phone number changes: you can change it online at *njuifile.net*. For more information about keeping appointments, see the *Important Questions* section.

2) Be able to work

You must be physically and mentally able to work each week for which you are claiming unemployment insurance benefits. If you cannot work due to sickness or injury not caused by the job, you may be eligible for benefits under New Jersey's Temporary Disability Insurance program.

3) Be available for work

You must be ready to start a job immediately, have transportation, and not have to stay home to care for children or other dependents. You may be denied UI benefits if you are not available for work due to temporarily illness or injury.

4) Actively seek work

You must make an effort to secure employment for each week of benefits that you claim. Contacting at least 3 employers each week by phone, mail, Internet or in person is considered a reasonable effort. You must be able to show proof that you are actively searching for work. A *sample template* for recording your contacts with employers is provided on page 32.

Even if you have a "work search waiver" excusing you from actively seeking full-time work, you must be mentally and physically able and available to work.

5) Not refuse an offer of suitable work

What is an offer of suitable work?

People who receive UI benefits must accept any offer of suitable work. An offer of work is suitable if it is reasonably similar to your previous work experience in location, type of work, and pay, including benefits. The longer you remain unemployed, the more willing you must be to expand your work search. You may need to consider offers outside of your normal trade or occupation and to accept work at a lower pay rate in order to remain eligible for benefits.

6) Claim your UI benefits every week online or every 2 weeks by phone.

See page 17 for how to *certify for benefits*.

What to expect after filing your initial claim

After you file your initial claim for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, we will mail you step-by-step instructions (form BC-9, "Unemployment Insurance Instructions and Appointment Notice") explaining how to certify for benefits. The notice also lists any appointments you are required to attend. ***All appointments are mandatory. Missing an appointment may affect your benefits.***

Unemployment insurance benefits are paid for a 7-day week beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday. ***The Sunday of the week in which you file your initial claim is your "Date of Claim."*** The first time you certify for benefits will be on a Wednesday, 17 days after your date of claim.

Within 10 days of applying for benefits, you will receive a "Notice to Claimant of Benefit Determination" (form BC-3C). The notice of benefit determination does not guarantee that you will receive benefits. The notice will list

- the employer(s) that you worked for during the base year on your claim
- the base weeks you worked, as reported by your employer(s)
- the wages you earned from your employer(s) during this time, as reported by your employer(s), and
- your weekly benefit amount and a maximum benefit amount.

If any information on the notice is incorrect, call the Reemployment Call Center immediately. An agent will schedule you for an appointment to correct your information. If weeks or wages are missing on your claim, or if we have other questions about your pay, an agent will send a request for wage information to your employer(s) and schedule a telephone interview.

If you became unemployed for any reason other than lack of work, or have any separation or other issues on your claim, you may be scheduled for an interview with a claims examiner to review the issues.

What are "non-monetary" issues?

Separation or other issues that are not related to wages are called "non-monetary" issues. Possible other issues include attending school or job training, not being able or available to work, not actively seeking work, refusing suitable work, and receiving certain types of payment after your last day of work (such as pension withdrawals).

How to certify for benefits

Certifying for benefits is different from filing your initial claim. After you file your initial claim, which starts your benefit year, you will have to certify for benefits every week online. If you certify by phone, you will certify every 2 weeks. You will receive your benefits by direct deposit or debit card, depending on what you chose when you filed your initial claim.

Certify online (the easiest way)

The easiest and quickest way to certify for your unemployment insurance benefits is online. When you certify for benefits online at *njuifile.net*, you can certify for benefits *every* week, any day of the week, starting on Sundays (instead of having to wait for a weekday). Certifying online is easy, safe and secure, and you will get your benefits faster than if you certify by phone.

You may certify for your benefits online any day of the week during the following hours:

Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

With your online ID, password and PIN, you can review your UI claim whenever you want.

Certify by phone

If you decide to certify for your benefits by phone, you will certify every 2 weeks, weekdays only. You will need your 4-digit PIN to certify for benefits. The hours of operation for phone benefit claims are 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (including holidays). The schedule for certifying for benefits by phone is:

Mondays — if your Social Security number ends with an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
Tuesdays — if your Social Security number ends with an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8).
Wednesday, Thursday or Friday — if you missed certifying on the assigned day.

If you have certified for benefits over the phone in the past, you may switch to certify online.

You can view your claim status anytime *here*, [njuifile.net] where you can get information about your claim including your UI benefit balance and withholding information. Your claim status is not available on the telephone system.

IMPORTANT: If either you or the employer is appealing a decision about your eligibility, you should continue to certify for benefits during the appeal process. If the appeal is decided in your favor, you will receive unemployment benefits *only* for weeks you have certified for benefits. During the appeal process you must report to any appointments for which you are scheduled. If you do not keep these appointments, you may lose benefits, even if you win your appeal.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

How much will your benefits be?

Your unemployment insurance (UI) benefit rate depends on 2 factors: your weekly benefit rate and your maximum claim benefit amount, described below.

1) Weekly benefit rate
   Your weekly benefit rate is 60% of your average weekly wage, up to the maximum benefit amount. The maximum weekly benefit is $677 in 2017.

2) Maximum claim benefit amount
   The maximum claim benefit amount equals the total amount of benefits you could collect in one benefit year. It will be shown on your "Notice to Claimant of Benefit Determination" (form BC-3C).
   - Your benefit year consists of the 52 weeks beginning with the first week you filed your claim.
   - Your maximum benefit amount is your weekly benefit rate multiplied by the number of your base weeks, up to a maximum of 26 weeks.
   - You have 1 year from your date of claim to collect your maximum benefit amount, up to 26 weeks.
   - You may reopen your claim more than once before the end of your benefit year, as long as you have a balance remaining.

How can you calculate your weekly and maximum UI benefit amounts?

You can use our *online calculator* [nj.gov/labor/UIbenefit-calculator] to get an estimate of what your benefits might be.

The UI benefit amount you are entitled to receive each week is called your weekly benefit rate. The amount is 60% of the average weekly wage you were paid during your base period, up to the maximum amount payable.

Dependents and dependency benefits

If you are not eligible for the maximum weekly benefit amount, you may qualify for dependency benefits. A dependent is defined as an unemployed spouse or civil union partner, or an unemployed, unmarried child under age 19 (22 if the child is still in school).

Dependency benefits can be an extra 7% of your basic weekly benefit for your first dependent, and an extra 4% for each of the next 2 dependents. You can claim up to 3 dependents, for up to 15% more than your weekly benefit amount, up to the maximum payable amount. Note:

1. If your spouse or civil union partner is employed during the week you file your claim, you cannot receive dependency benefits.

2. If you and your spouse or civil union partner are both unemployed, only 1 may claim dependency benefits.

3. To claim dependency benefits, complete an *Application for Dependency Benefits* (page 36). You must provide the Social Security number(s) of all dependents you are claiming.

4. To verify dependency status, we will accept your most recent federal or state income tax return. If this is unavailable, or is insufficient to prove current dependency status, we may consider a combination of the following documents:

   • birth certificate • baptismal certificate • marriage certificate
   • civil union license • adoption order • certain other legal documents
   • child support order • divorce, dissolution, or annulment order

5. You must provide proof within 6 weeks of the date of claim or you will not be eligible for dependency benefits for the duration of the claim. ***No dependency benefits will be paid until you provide proof.***

Part-time work (partial benefits)

If you work part time you may still be able to collect all or part of your unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

IMPORTANT: When claiming benefits, you must report your part-time wages when *earned*, even if you have not yet been paid.

How we calculate partial benefits

To be eligible for partial UI benefits, you cannot work more than 80% of the hours normally worked in the occupation. For example, if you worked a 40-hour week, you can't work for more than 32 hours.

For any wages earned from any employer

- If you earn 20% or less of your weekly benefit rate from an employer, you can still receive your full benefit amount for that week. However, you cannot be paid more than your weekly benefit rate.

- If you earn more than 20% of your weekly benefit rate from an employer in a given week, your partial weekly benefit payment will be reduced dollar-for-dollar for all gross wages earned that week.

    - *For example*, if your weekly benefit rate is $200, your partial weekly benefit rate is $240 (20% more than $200.) If you earn $50 gross during a week, you would receive $190 in unemployment insurance benefits ($240 – $50 = $190).

- Report your *gross* earnings and all hours worked for the week in which they were earned, not when they are paid.

- If you worked on Election Day for a county Board of Elections, you do not have to report these earnings. Earnings from Election Day work do not reduce your weekly UI benefits.

Filing for unemployment insurance benefits after a period of disability

If you are laid off or terminated from your job while collecting temporary disability benefits or workers' compensation, you should file for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits upon recovery. You may qualify for UI benefits by using wages you earned in an *alternate base year* set by the disability date. To use the alternate base year, all of the following must have occurred:

1. You recovered from either:
   - a workers' compensation disability that began less than 2 years before the UI claim date, *OR*
   - a temporary disability covered by the temporary disability program.
2. You contacted your employer after you recovered, and work is no longer available.
3. You filed a claim for UI benefits within 4 weeks of recovery.

The alternate base year cannot be used if work was available and you did not return to work. If you have sufficient wages in the regular base year to file a claim, you may use the base year to calculate your UI benefit amount. Wages in both the regular and alternate base years cannot be combined to establish a valid unemployment claim. Wages used on an earlier claim cannot be used again.

Tax responsibilities

The state of New Jersey does not tax unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, but benefits are subject to federal tax. UI benefits are subject to the rules that apply to reporting income and paying taxes. By the end of January, we will make available the total amount of UI benefits you received and tax withheld during the year. We also report this information to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

You may view and print a copy of your yearly income tax statement(s) online by using our self-service system. Go to *njuifile.net* and select "View/Print 1099 statement." By January 31 each year, we will post notification on our website when 1099-G information is available. You will need your user ID and password to access 1099-G information online.

The Internal Revenue Code states that you must pay most of your tax liability through tax withholding or by making estimated tax payments quarterly. The IRS may impose penalties if you do not pay enough tax using one or both of these methods each calendar quarter.

Making estimated tax payments

You must make estimated tax payments if you expect to owe taxes to the IRS, and expect to owe more than your withholding and credits.

The IRS divides the year into 4 payment periods, each with a due date for paying estimated taxes. If you do not pay enough tax by the due date, the IRS may impose a penalty.

Contact the *IRS* [irs.gov] for more information about making estimated tax payments.

Tax withholding

When you file your initial unemployment insurance (UI) claim, you will be asked if you want 10% of your weekly UI benefits withheld and sent to the IRS to help offset your tax liabilities. If you choose to have tax withheld but later change your mind, complete the "*Request for Change in Withholding*" status (on page 36) and mail it to us at the address shown on the form. You may change your withholding status any time.

Taxes already withheld cannot be returned to you except by the IRS as part of your federal income tax refund.

Appealing a determination about eligibility

What if you disagree with a determination?

You will receive, by mail, any written decision (called a determination) that affects your eligibility for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. If your claim for benefits is denied or your UI benefits are reduced and you disagree with that determination, you have the right to appeal. Your employer also has the right to appeal. Regardless of who appeals, your former employer may participate in the hearing.

How can you appeal a determination?

If a determination denies or reduces your UI benefits and if you choose to appeal the determination, you must do so in writing either by letter or by the *online form* [nj.gov/labor/onlineappeal]. To appeal by letter, you must write a letter stating that you are appealing the determination. (See #1 below for helpful information to include.) There are deadlines for filing an appeal (see #2 below).

1. Your letter of appeal should include
   - your name
   - your Social Security number or claimant ID number
   - your mailing address

- your phone number
- your e-mail address
- your reasons for disagreeing with the determination
- and, if you are filing the appeal late, the reason for the delay.

2. You must file your appeal within 10 calendar days of the date the determination was mailed to you or within 7 calendar days after delivery.

   Again, if you send your appeal late, your written appeal should include the reason for the delay. The appeal period will be extended only if you show good cause for filing late. Good cause exists when you can show that the delay was due to circumstances beyond your control, which could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented.

3. Keep a copy of your written letter of appeal.

4. You may file an appeal
   online *nj.gov/labor/onlineappeal*
   by mail Appeal Tribunal
   New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
   P.O. Box 907
   Trenton, NJ 08625-0907
   or by fax (609) 292-2438

Get more information *here.* [nj.gov/labor/UI-appeals]

The Appeal Tribunal hearing

If you or your employer files an appeal, you will get a Notice of Hearing in the mail. The notice will tell you the date and time of your hearing, and explain how to participate. Most hearings are held by phone.

Phone Hearings: The hearing notice will instruct you to call the Appeal Tribunal 15–30 minutes before your scheduled hearing time. *You must make the phone call to participate in the hearing.* During this call you will give your contact information. The Appeals Examiner will call you back when it is time to begin the hearing. You must accept this call; we will consider it failing to participate if we cannot reach you at the number you provide.

- Caller ID shows the telephone numbers of the Appeal Tribunal as private, unknown, out-of-area, anonymous, etc. If your phone has other features or devices to block calls, those features should be turned off on the day of your scheduled hearing.
- If you do not call us to initiate the hearing or do not answer our call to you, your appeal may be dismissed or decided unfavorably to you. You may have to pay back any benefits you have already received.

IMPORTANT: If either you or the employer is appealing a decision about your eligibility, you should continue to certify for benefits during the appeal process. If the appeal is decided in your favor, you will receive unemployment benefits *only* for weeks you have certified for benefits. During the appeal process you must report to any appointments for which you are scheduled. If you do not keep these appointments, you may lose benefits, even if you win your appeal.

If your employer appeals your right to UI benefits

If your former employer(s) disagrees with the determination awarding you benefits, the employer may appeal. If it is determined that you are eligible for benefits, you will continue to receive your benefits as long as you meet all other requirements. If the Appeal Tribunal decides in the employer's favor, you will be required to repay all or part of the unemployment insurance benefits that have been paid to you.

If you cannot attend a scheduled hearing

If you are unable to participate in a scheduled hearing, you may request a postponement. The Appeal Tribunal may grant the request if you show good cause. If possible, request a postponement in advance of the hearing.

After the hearing

The Appeal Tribunal's decisions are issued in writing and are based entirely on the evidence and testimony made at the hearing. If the Appeal Tribunal rules in your favor, the Division of Unemployment Insurance will issue any payments due. **The Appeal Tribunal does not issue payments.** Allow up to 7 days from the date of mailing for the unemployment insurance division to process the Appeal Tribunal's decision. Please direct any questions about your appeal decision to the Reemployment Call Center:

North New Jersey (Union City):	201-601-4100
Central New Jersey (Freehold):	732-761-2020
South New Jersey (Vineland):	856-507-2340
Out-of-State claims:	1-888-795-6672 — *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

Call Centers are open weekdays (except state holidays) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

Appeal to the Board of Review

If you disagree with the Appeal Tribunal's decision, you may appeal to the Board of Review. You must do this within 20 days of the mailing date of the Appeal Tribunal's decision. Instructions on how to do this are on the last page of the Appeal Tribunal decision, which we will mail to you.

Appeals to the Board of Review must be submitted in writing to:

Board of Review
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
P.O. Box 937
Trenton, NJ 08625-0937

The Board of Review is the highest appellate level within the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The Board of Review will base its decision on a review of the Appeal Tribunal record. You can find more about the Board of Review online *here*. [http://nj.gov/labor/bor]

Right to further appeal

If you receive an unfavorable decision from the Board of Review, you may appeal the Board's decision to the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court. The Court is part of the Judiciary branch of government and is entirely out of this department's jurisdiction. The Court has its own rules and procedure, costs and requirements.

For more information about appealing Board of Review decisions, call the Appellate Division at 609-292-4822. You can get additional information on the appeal process, including frequently asked questions, *here.* [nj.gov/labor/UI-appeals2]

Answers to Important Questions

Address change

IMPORTANT: If you move within 2 years from the date of your initial claim, even if you are not currently claiming unemployment insurance benefits, you must still notify us about a change of address. We need your current address to notify you about possible benefit extensions, adjustment payments, determinations or other changes and general information.

Q. What should I do if I move?

A. If you *move within New Jersey*, you can change your address and telephone number online *here*. [njuifile.net] You will need a New Jersey state identification card, a New Jersey driver's license, or the personal identification number (PIN) you set up when you filed your initial unemployment benefit claim to change your address online. You may change your information by phone by calling a local Reemployment Call Center (see numbers below).

If you *move or live out of state*, you can change your address and telephone number by calling a Reemployment Call Center:

North New Jersey (Union City):	201-601-4100	
Central New Jersey (Freehold):	732-761-2020	
South New Jersey (Vineland):	856-507-2340	
Out-of-State claims:	1-888-795-6672 —	*You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

Call Centers are open weekdays (except state holidays) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

After you change your address with us, you should report to the nearest unemployment insurance office in the state where you live to register for work, if you are still unemployed.

Appointments

Q. What should I do if I cannot keep a scheduled appointment for a phone interview?

A. If you know in advance that you cannot keep an appointment for a phone interview, contact your Reemployment Call Center before your assigned date, to reschedule. If you missed your appointment, contact your Reemployment Call Center as soon as possible after the missed appointment. An agent from your Reemployment Call Center will schedule an interview to determine why you missed your initial appointment.

Q. What should I do if I cannot keep a scheduled in-person appointment for Reemployment Services?

A. If you know in advance that you cannot keep an appointment for reemployment services, contact your One-Stop Career Center before your assigned date, to reschedule. Refer to the appointment letter you received for instructions. An agent from your Reemployment Call Center will schedule an interview to determine why you missed your initial appointment.

Eligibility

Q. What should I do if I did not file a claim the week in which I became unemployed?

A. Claims begin when you file your claim. If you believe your claim should be backdated, discuss this with the agent when you file your claim by phone. If you file your claim online, call a Reemployment Call Center to request that your claim be backdated. A request for backdating will be referred to a claims examiner for adjudication.

North New Jersey (Union City):	201-601-4100
Central New Jersey (Freehold):	732-761-2020
South New Jersey (Vineland):	856-507-2340
Out-of-State claims:	1-888-795-6672 — *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

Q. I am going to be laid off next week; can I file my unemployment claim now so my claim is ready?

A. No. If you are employed full time, you cannot file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits. Such a claim would be invalid. You cannot file a UI claim until you become unemployed or your hours are reduced.

Q. Will my pension or Social Security benefits affect my claim?

A. Social Security retirement benefits do not affect your unemployment insurance benefits.

If you are eligible to receive a pension from an employer listed on your UI claim, the benefits may be reduced. The term "pension" includes benefits paid in a lump sum, such as 401K, as well as pensions that are paid on a monthly basis. If you have applied for, received or expect to receive a pension or retirement pay, we will schedule an appointment to discuss your situation.

Q. Should I wait until my severance pay ends to file a claim?

A. No. You should file your claim immediately, as soon as you stop working full time. If you file your initial claim by telephone, the agent will determine whether your severance pay affects your unemployment insurance benefits. If you file your claim online, and it appears that your severance pay may affect your UI benefits, we will schedule an appointment to discuss your situation.

Q. Do I have to accept a job that pays less than I used to earn?

A. While you are collecting unemployment insurance benefits, you are expected to accept suitable work when it is offered or you could lose your benefits for 4 weeks. Suitable work depends on your work history, salary, skills, commuting distance, etc. The longer you remain unemployed, the more willing you must be to expand your work search. You may be required to travel a greater distance, accept a different type of job or accept a lower starting pay rate in order to remain eligible for benefits. If you refuse a job offer, your claim will go to a claims examiner to determine whether you are still eligible to receive benefits.

Q. Can I collect on my original claim if I start a new job and it does not work out?

A. If you leave a new job, we will schedule you for an interview with a claims examiner to review the reason for your job separation. Based on the information you provide, the examiner will decide whether you are still eligible to receive benefits.

Q. I was disqualified and couldn't receive unemployment insurance benefits during that time. What should I do when my disqualification period is over?

A. When your disqualification period is over call your Reemployment Call Center.

Q. Will I continue to collect unemployment insurance benefits if I attend a training program?

A. If a One-Stop Career Center counselor approves your training before you register for school, you may be eligible for a work-search waiver and up to 26 weeks of additional benefits during training (ABT). If you are

thinking about going to school, you *must* contact your One-Stop Career Center and arrange to meet with a counselor to discuss the training *before* enrolling.

Q. What should I do if I return to work full time?

A. If you returned to work *full time* during the week(s) you are claiming, you must let us know when you certify for benefits for those weeks. Whether you do this online or by phone, you will have to answer questions about your return to full-time work. You'll be asked for the date you went back to work, your gross wages earned (before deductions), and the number of hours you worked. If you certify your benefits online, you will also need to provide the employer's name, address and phone number.

Q*. How many claims may I file in a year?*

A. You may file 1 claim in a 365-day period (benefit year), starting from the first date of your claim.

Q*. When can I file another claim for UI benefits?*

A. UI claims must be based on different work experiences. You cannot go from one claim to another claim without working in between. So if you received benefits on one claim, you must have worked since the start date of that claim. You may requalify for unemployment insurance benefits if:

1. the benefit year of the first claim has ended
2. you worked in *covered* employment for at least 4 weeks since you filed your first claim, *and*
3. you earned at least 6 times the *previous* claim's weekly benefit rate.

Q*. I was a corporate officer — can I file for unemployment insurance benefits?*

A. A person who is a corporate officer, or who has more than a 5% equitable or debt interest in a corporation, will not be considered unemployed from that corporation. Claims filed in this situation are *invalid*.

If your corporation permanently ceases operations, you must provide a copy of the Tax Clearance Certificate and proof that an Application for Formal Dissolution has been filed in accordance with the New Jersey Business Corporation Act, N.J.S.A. 14A:1-1 *et seq.*, or file for bankruptcy under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. If your corporate officer/owner status is terminated, you could be considered unemployed and you may be eligible for a *valid* unemployment claim.

Extensions

Q. Are there any state or federal benefit extensions at this time?

A. No, there are no extension programs now.

Overpayment/Refund

Q. Why is my federal income tax refund being withheld?

A. If your IRS refund was withheld, it may be because at some point in time you improperly collected unemployment insurance benefits. Federal income tax refunds may be used to offset a delinquent debt.

Every month, the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development sends statements to people who have an outstanding debt. The statements contain a warning that we submit unpaid debts to the IRS for offset against future federal income tax refund(s). Only delinquent debts are sent to the IRS for collection by withholding tax refunds.

Interest, penalties, and other charges may be assessed on the balance you currently owe. You can get more detailed information online *here*. [nj.gov/labor/UI-overpaid]

Q. Why do I have a refund on my claim? Does "refund" mean I owe money?

A. Yes. A refund indicates that you have received benefits to which you were not entitled. (See question above for more information.) The refund amount is the amount you were overpaid. You must return those benefits. If we paid benefits to you in error, we will mail you a notice stating the amount you were overpaid and why you are not entitled to the benefits. Each month we mail notices to people who have been overpaid. If your new claim shows that you have an outstanding refund amount, that amount will be deducted from your claim. You have the right to appeal the determination by following the instructions on the bottom of the notice.

Q. If I owe a refund, can I make an electronic payment?

A. Yes. You can make a secure electronic payment *here*. [njuifile.net/repayment] The E-payment service accepts both credit card and e-check payments.

Q. How do I avoid collection action against me?

A. You can avoid collection action either by repaying the debt in full or by establishing and maintaining a monthly installment agreement. We mail a monthly statement (form BPC-404) to anyone who owes us money. The statement shows the amount you must pay each month. It also allows you to commit to repay a certain amount each month at our e-payment site *here*. [njuifile.net/repayment] This is considered a formal monthly installment agreement.

Certifying for benefits (benefit payment)

Q. What should I do if I forget to certify my claim on the assigned day?

A. You may certify for your benefits *online* any day of the week during the following hours:

Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Sunday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you certify *by phone*, you should call on the Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday of that same week. Hours of operation for phone benefit claims are 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (including holidays).

Q. How long after I certify for my benefits will I get a payment to my direct deposit account?

A. If you choose to have your UI benefit payments deposited directly into your bank account, the money will usually be available in your account within 48 hours after you certify for your benefits.

Q. How long after I certify for my benefits will I get a payment to my pre-paid debit card?

A. If you did not choose direct deposit, you will receive benefits through a pre-paid debit card. The funds will usually be posted to your pre-paid debit card within 48 hours after you certify for your benefits. Get more information about pre-paid debit benefits *here*. [nj.gov/labor/UI-debitcard]

Your unemployment insurance claim account

Q. How can I find out the balance of my unemployment insurance claim and the tax amount that was withheld this year until now?

A. After you certify for your weekly benefits online, you will see a confirmation screen. This screen shows the gross and net amount of your payment, any amount deducted for refunds or garnishments, tax withheld on your payment, and tax withheld this year to date. It also shows the remaining balance on your claim.

You can view your claim status anytime *here*, [njuifile.net] where you can get information about your claim including your UI benefit balance and withholding information. Your claim status is not available on the telephone system.

Taxes

Q. Will I be mailed a yearly income tax statement?

A. No. You may get your 1099-G income tax statement online *here* [njuifile.net] — select "View/Print 1099-G Tax Statement." To view and print a copy of your income tax statement, you will need your online ID and password. You don't need to send a copy of Form 1099-G with your income tax return, as we have already reported the information to the Internal Revenue Service.

Q. What if I cannot access the self-service system to obtain my Form 1099-G?

A. You may request a copy from your Reemployment Call Center. It may take 10 business days to receive a copy of your Form 1099-G.

Q. What if the amounts on Form 1099-G are not correct?

A. Contact your Reemployment Call Center and inform the agent that the amounts on the 1099-G are incorrect. The agent will review the facts and data with you to resolve the matter.

Online Help

Answers to frequently asked questions about unemployment insurance benefits	*nj.gov/labor/UnemploymentQs*
Calculate your weekly benefits	*nj.gov/labor/UIbenefit-calculator*
Claim weekly unemployment insurance benefits	*njuifile.net*
Your appeal rights	*nj.gov/labor/UI-appeals*
Search for a job (OnRamp)	*careerconnections.nj.gov* (click on "OnRamp for Jobseekers" on homepage)
Job fairs in your area	*careerconnections.nj.gov* (click on "View the job fairs calendar" at the bottom of the homepage)
Pay back overpaid benefits	*nj.gov/labor/UI-overpaid*
Report unemployment insurance fraud	*nj.gov/labor/ReportFraud*

Work Search Record

List all the employers and labor unions you contact each week while claiming unemployment insurance benefits. This template may help you keep a record of your work search contacts. The Division of Unemployment Insurance may ask you to provide proof of your search for work at any time you are claiming benefits. You must contact different employers each week. When you run out of space on this sheet, continue your list on separate sheets of paper.

Date of contact	Employer name, address, phone number	Method of contact	Name of person contacted	Position applied for	Was application taken?	Result of contact

Important contact information

Unemployment Insurance

The easiest, quickest way to file your unemployment insurance claim is to *file online*. [njuifile.net]
File your claim as soon as you become unemployed — but not before.

File online: *njuifile.net*

File by phone (***Reemployment Call Centers/Customer Service***):

North New Jersey:	201-601-4100
Central New Jersey:	732-761-2020
South New Jersey:	856-507-2340
Out-of-State claims:	1-888-795-6672 — *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

Can't find an answer to your question on our website? To get help with your claim, call your nearest Reemployment Call Center — for Customer Service (phone numbers listed above).

Mailing address

Unemployment Insurance – Customer Service Office
New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
P.O. Box 058
Trenton, NJ 08625-0058

Bank of America (prepaid debit cards)

If you have questions about your debit card, please call Bank of America directly at 1-866-213-4074.

Help us serve you better!

Please take the time to let us know how we can do our jobs better by completing a short, anonymous online survey at *https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UIWebsiteSurveyMay2014*.

Local Phone Numbers

to certify for weekly UI benefits and for UI claim information

IMPORTANT: All of these phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

Location	to certify for weekly benefits	for claim information
Camden	856-614-3801	856-614-3833
East Orange	973-680-3518	973-748-4800
Elizabeth	908-820-3969	908-820-3150
Hackensack	201-996-8021	201-996-8940
Jersey City	201-217-4602	201-795-8707
Neptune	732-775-5131	732-775-7970
New Brunswick	732-937-4525	732-937-6260
Newark	973-648-7601	973-648-2429
Newton	973-383-4432	973-383-7653
Passaic	973-458-6724	973-916-2630
Paterson	973-977-4307	973-977-4300
Perth Amboy	732-937-4525	732-937-6260
Phillipsburg	908-859-5467	908-859-3320
Plainfield	908-412-7779	908-412-7951
Pleasantville	609-441-7581	609-441-3300
Randolph	973-328-6490	973-361-9055
Somerville	908-704-3366	908-704-3006
Thorofare	856-853-4177	856-384-3754
Toms River	732-286-6460	732-286-5639
Trenton	609-292-6800	609-292-0695
Out-of-State claims *You must call from a phone with an out-of-state area code*	1-888-795-6672	1-888-795-6672

One-Stop Career Center locations

Atlantic
2 South Main Street, First Floor, Suite 1
Pleasantville, NJ 08232-2728
(609) 813-3900

Bergen
60 State Street, Floor 1
Hackensack, NJ 07601-5427
(201) 329-9600

Burlington
* 795 Woodlane Road, Floor 2
P.O. Box 6100
Westampton, NJ 08060
(609) 518-3900

Camden
2600 Mount Ephraim Avenue, Suite 102
Camden, NJ 08104-3290
(856) 614-3151

Cape May
* 3810 New Jersey Avenue
Wildwood, NJ 08260-0210
(609) 729-0997

Cumberland
* Center for Workforce & Economic Development
Cumberland County College
3322 College Drive
Vineland, NJ 08362
(856) 696-6600

Essex
50 South Clinton Street, Floor 2
East Orange, NJ 07018-3120
(973) 395-3255

990 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 648-3370

Gloucester
* 215 Crown Point Road, Suite 200
Thorofare, NJ 08086
(856) 384-3700

** locations marked with an asterisk DO NOT have unemployment staff available to answer questions about unemployment claims.*

Hudson
438 Summit Avenue, Floor 1
Jersey City, NJ 07306-3175
(201) 795-8800/(201) 795-8840

* 530 48th Street, Floor 7
Union City, NJ 07087
(201) 369-5205

Hunterdon
* 6 Gauntt Place, Bldg. 2 (lower level)
Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 782-2371

Mercer
26 Yard Avenue, Floor 1
P.O. Box 954
Trenton, NJ 08625-0954
(609) 292-0620

Middlesex
* 550 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1392
(732) 937-6200

161 New Brunswick Avenue
Suite 300, Floor 3
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861-4193
(732) 293-5016

Monmouth
* 145 Wyckoff Road
Eatontown, NJ 07724
(732) 683-8850

60 Taylor Avenue
Neptune, NJ 07753-4844
(732) 775-1566

Morris
13 Emery Avenue
Randolph, NJ 07860
(862) 397-5600

* 30 Schuyler Place, Floor 2
Morristown, NJ 07960-3834
(973) 361-9050

Ocean
* 1027 Hooper Avenue, Building 6
Toms River, NJ 08753-8392
(732) 286-5616

* 1959 Route 9
Toms River, NJ 08755
(732) 286-6446 ext. 261

Passaic
25 Howe Avenue
Passaic, NJ 07055-4007
(973) 916-2648

200 Memorial Drive, Floor 1
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 742-9226

Salem
* 174 East Broadway, Floor 2
Salem, NJ 08079
(856) 935-7007

Somerset
75 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite 102
Somerville, NJ 08876-2950
(908) 704-3000

Sussex
Sussex County Mall
Route 206 North
Newton, NJ 07860-1818
(973) 383-2775

Union
921 Elizabeth Avenue
Elizabeth, NJ 07201-2306
(908) 965-3929

* 200 West Second Street, Floor 2
Plainfield, NJ 07060
(908) 412-7980

Warren
75 South Main Street
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
(908) 859-0400

NOTE: This list is subject to change. For the current list of offices with UI staff, see *careerconnections.nj.gov* — see interactive map on homepage.

APPLICATION FOR DEPENDENCY BENEFITS

To claim dependency benefits, COMPLETE this application and mail it, with the required proof of dependency, to:

New Jersey Unemployment Insurance • PO Box 908 • Trenton, NJ 08625-0908

Name _____ Claimant ID/Social Security number _____

Are you legally married or in a civil union? ❑ Yes ❑ No

If yes, is your spouse or civil union partner employed? ❑ Yes ❑ No

DEPENDENT'S NAME. If married or in a civil union, list spouse/civil union partner first	AGE	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	RELATION TO YOU	MARRIED/IN A CIVIL UNION		EMPLOYED		LOCAL OFFICE USE ONLY			
								ELIGIBLE		VERIFICATION PROVIDED	BY
				YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO		

If any of the dependent children listed above are over age 18, and are full-time students at a public or other non-profit educational institution, please specify which individual(s) and give the name(s) of the school(s).

Name _____ School _____

Name _____ School _____

Name _____ School _____

I certify that my statements are TRUE. I understand that the law provides penalties for false statements.

Signature _____ Date _____

- -

REQUEST TO CHANGE WITHHOLDING STATUS

Name (Print) _____

Claimant ID/Social Security number _____Telephone Number _____

Home Address _____

❑ I request that my tax withholding status be changed to help offset my future tax liability.
I understand that

- 10% of my weekly benefits will be withheld and forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service
- I can stop the withholding by writing to the Division of Unemployment Insurance
- any monies withheld cannot be returned except by the federal government as part of a federal income tax refund.

❑ I request that tax withholding from my future unemployment benefits be stopped.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail this form to: New Jersey Unemployment Insurance
PO Box 908
Trenton, NJ 08625-0908

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Unemployment Insurance

AUTHORIZATION FOR BENEFIT PAYMENT BY DIRECT DEPOSIT OR DEBIT CARD

The only methods of payment for Unemployment Insurance benefits in the State of New Jersey are direct deposit or debit card. The Division of Unemployment Insurance (UI) offers unemployed workers the option to have their benefits deposited directly into their personal checking or savings accounts or deposited into a pre-paid debit card account. Direct deposit or debit card are convenient, safe, and reliable ways to receive your benefits. Funds will normally be available in your account within two (2) full business days from the day you claim benefits by Internet or by Telephone. **Payments are not transmitted on State, Federal, or Banking holidays, or on weekends. You should verify all deposits with the bank or financial institution prior to writing checks or attempting to access and use the benefit payments.**

If you are eligible for benefits and have a checking or savings account at a financial institution that is a member of the Automated Clearing House network, you can apply for direct deposit online at **www.njuifile.net** or by completing and mailing this authorization form. If you elect to receive your benefits by debit card, you may enroll by completing this authorization form and mailing it to the Division of Unemployment Insurance. **Any changes requested by mail will take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to become effective.**

If you filed your unemployment insurance claim by using the Internet application and you requested direct deposit of your benefits *or* if you requested direct deposit using the Direct Deposit link on the **www.njuifile.net** website, after filing your initial unemployment insurance claim, it is not necessary for you to complete this form. Your direct deposit information was obtained when your initial claim was filed.

If you subscribe to direct deposit, it will remain in effect on your claim for the entire benefit year unless you request the stoppage of direct deposit. If you change financial institutions or your account, you must make the necessary changes online at **www.njuifile.net** *or* complete this authorization form to update or change your financial institution and/or your account information. Please be advised that any account inactivity of a twenty-eight (28) day or longer duration will cause your method of benefit payment to automatically revert to a debit card. You should keep your debit card in a secure location. The debit card is valid for a period of four (4) years. You can use the same debit card if you file for Unemployment Insurance benefits within four (4) years from when you first received your debit card.

For enrollment in direct deposit, you must provide proof that you are the owner or joint owner of the account. Acceptable proof can be: (1) a voided check with your name and address imprinted on it; (2) a copy of the section of the account statement showing your name and address, the financial institution's name and address and the account number; or, (3) a completed direct deposit request form provided by your financial institution. Starter checks are not accepted. Do not include sections of the financial statement showing personal finances. Remember to provide the nine-digit bank routing and transit number. **Please check with your bank or financial institution and verify that the transit/routing number and the account number imprinted on your check or statement are the correct numbers to use for Direct Deposit programs. Also, verify that the institution will accept the electronic transfers. Please obtain the correct information from your bank or financial institution.**

Complete, sign and mail this authorization form and proof of account ownership to:

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance, Checkmaster Unit
PO Box 908
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0908

RECIPIENT INFORMATION (please print clearly)

Name: _____ Social Security No.: _____

Address: _____ Telephone No.: _____

_____ E-mail Address: _____

REASON FOR REQUEST (check all that apply)

❑ Begin Direct Deposit ❑ Stop Direct Deposit/Begin Debit Card ❑ Change Financial Institution ❑ Change Account Number

ACCOUNT INFORMATION (attach proof of account ownership)

Type of Account: ❑ Checking ❑ Savings ❑ Brokerage/Investment or other (verify that they accept electronic transfers)

Bank or Financial Institution Routing Number (9 digits): | | | | | | | | | |

Account Number: _____

Financial Institution Name and Address: _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I authorize the New Jersey Department of Labor And Workforce Development to deposit my benefit payments to the account specified. **I understand that it is my own responsibility to verify all benefit payment deposits.** Usage of Direct Deposit or Debit Card, under this authorization, is full satisfaction and discharge of the amount(s) then due and payable under the benefit program(s). I understand that the direct deposit service will remain in effect for the duration of my benefit claim unless I contact the Division of Unemployment Insurance to request that the direct deposit be stopped. I understand that the debit card is valid for a period not to exceed four (4) years. **I further understand that any change(s) requested by mail will take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to become effective.**

➢ **Signature of Recipient:** _____ **Date:** _____

FOR AGENT USE ONLY: *UI Agent Must Follow Security Procedures for Maintaining Confidential Information*

SSN _____ DOC _____ PC ____ DATE ENTERED _____ AGENT _____

BC-502 (R-10-13)

Glossary

of important unemployment insurance terms

alternate base period — A period of time that may be used to determine the unemployment benefit amount you may be entitled to, if you do not qualify using the regular base period. New Jersey has 2 possible alternate base periods. Alternate base period #1 includes wages earned in the 4 most recently completed quarters before your date of claim. Alternate base period #2 is the 3 most recently completed quarters between your date of claim and the weeks in the filing quarter up to your date of claim.

Appeal Tribunal — The Appeal Tribunal decides initial disputes about eligibility for unemployment (and some temporary disability) insurance benefits. If, after you file a claim for UI benefits, you or your employer disagrees with the determination of your eligibility for benefits, you and your employer have the right to file an appeal to the Appeal Tribunal.

average weekly wage —The total wages earned in your base period, divided by the number of base weeks you worked.

base period — A period of time used to determine if you qualify for UI benefits and to calculate your benefit amount. A regular base period is the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters before the week you file an initial claim. Alternate base periods may be used if a person claiming unemployment insurance benefits does not qualify using the regular base period.

base week — A week in which you earn a minimum amount. For claims filed in 2017, a base week is one in which you earn at least $168. Base weeks are used to calculate the unemployment insurance benefit you are entitled to.

base year — The first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters before the week you file an initial claim. Also called a regular base period.

benefit amount, maximum — The maximum weekly benefit amount for unemployment insurance for claims filed in 2017 is $677.

benefit rate, weekly — The unemployment insurance benefit rate you are eligible for: 60% of your average weekly wage, up to the maximum amount of $677 in 2017.

careerconnections.nj.gov — The website of New Jersey Career Connections, featuring interactive tools including OnRamp (our online job board and job-match tool) and pathways for career navigation. Other resources on the website include a directory of training programs, information on careers, and guidance on a wide variety of topics including networking, searching for employment, and preparing for interviews.

certifying for benefits — The weekly or biweekly process of letting us know that you are still unemployed and are actively seeking work, and continue to meet all other requirements for claiming unemployment insurance benefits. You may certify for benefits online or by phone.

claimant — An unemployed worker who has filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits.

claims examiner — A member of our unemployment insurance staff who determines your eligibility for UI benefits based on available information. A claims examiner will call you if you have an appointment to clarify wage or other matters that could affect your eligibility.

commission — A sum of money paid to an employee upon completion of a task, usually selling goods or services. A commission may be a percentage of the sales amount paid to an employee. A commission may be paid in addition to or instead of a salary. These wages may not affect your UI rate.

date of claim —The Sunday at the start of the week in which you file your initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits is your date of claim. UI benefits are paid for a 7-day week beginning on Sunday and ending on Saturday.

dependency benefits — Additional benefits you may be eligible for, if you meet the eligibility requirements for this benefit. Dependency benefits may increase your basic weekly benefit by 7% for your first dependent, and an additional 4% for each of the next 2 dependents.

dependent — An unemployed spouse or civil union partner, or an unemployed, unmarried child under the age of 19 (22 if the child is still in school).

determination — A decision about whether you are eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

direct deposit — One of two ways you can choose to receive your UI benefit payments. With direct deposit, the money will go directly into a bank account you authorize.

fraud — Claiming or accepting unemployment insurance benefits illegally. Fraud is a crime and will be prosecuted. For more *information about fraud*, see page 6.

gross earnings — The total amount paid to a worker, before any taxes or deductions are taken out.

identity verification — Our process of checking the credentials of everyone who files an unemployment insurance claim, and ensuring that only those who are legally eligible collect UI benefits.

initial claim — A first-time application for unemployment insurance benefits.

Jersey Job Clubs — Voluntary networking and support groups for jobseekers, in locations throughout New Jersey. Jersey Job Clubs hold networking events and workshops on topics with the goal of helping people find employment.

monetary issues — Questions concerning earnings during your base year.

New Jersey Career Connections — A comprehensive job-search and career navigation service provided by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. New Jersey Career Connections is online at *careerconnections.nj.gov*. Get in-person help from career coaches at One-Stop Career Centers and public libraries throughout New Jersey.

non-monetary issues — Questions that could affect your eligibility for benefits that do *not* have to do with wage payment (for example, the reason you are not employed, your ability to work, etc.).

One-Stop Career Center — These centers, throughout the state, offer a wide range of free services for jobseekers and employers alike: free career counseling, skills assessment, computer tutorials, information about job opportunities and training options, and access to computers, phones and fax machines to use in a job search. Professional career coaches are always on site to offer guidance. Not all One-Stop Career Centers have UI staff available to answer questions about claims. The list of *One-Stop Career Centers* on page 35 shows which offices do have unemployment staff.

online ID — A unique online ID you create to access *njuifile.net*. Also known as a user ID.

OnRamp — New Jersey's premier online job-search and resume builder tool, on *careerconnections.nj.gov*. Uses smart technology to help you find real-time job openings relevant to your skills.

partial benefits — If you have been working full time, and your hours have been reduced, you may qualify for partial UI benefits. You must still be ready and willing to accept a job that would enable you to work full time.

Path to Employment — an easy-to-follow and effective process to help jobseekers reach their career goals. Check out the Plan, Prepare, and Succeed pathways on *careerconnections.nj.gov*.

password — A word or string of characters you create to access *njuifile.net*.net. Your password protects your personal information; do not give your password to anyone else.

personal identification number (PIN) — A 4-digit number you create when you file your initial claim by phone or the first time you certify for benefits online. You must use your PIN every time you certify for benefits.

Reemployment Call Center (RCC) — A customer service center where unemployment insurance professionals answer questions about unemployment insurance claims. There are 3 RCCs in New Jersey — one each in the North, Central and South regions of the state. All of the RCC phone numbers go to the same place. Local phone numbers are offered as a courtesy for callers who are charged more for long-distance calls. If you are in a phone queue, you will not move ahead by trying one of the other phone numbers. If you hang up to call a different number, you will forfeit your place and be moved to the end of the queue.

separation — Loss of employment for any reason.

tax withholding — Tax deducted from a payment or wages, paid to the government. In most jurisdictions, withholding tax applies to employment income.

work search waiver — A work search waiver excuses you from actively seeking full-time work while claiming unemployment insurance benefits. May be granted in certain cases, such as when a person is enrolled in a pre-approved training program, or finds jobs through union hiring halls, or is laid off temporarily with a definite rehire date within 8 weeks from the date of initial separation.