

What is Unemployment Insurance?

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a temporary income protection program for workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, but are able to work, available for work, and looking for work. Funding for UI benefits comes from quarterly contributions paid by the state's employers to the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA); no deductions are made from employees' pay.

When should you apply for UI benefits?

If you have been separated from work, or your work schedule has been reduced, you should apply for UI benefits during your first week of total or partial unemployment. Your claim will begin on the Sunday of the calendar week in which your claim is filed. This date is known as your effective claim date. Waiting more than a full week to request benefits will delay the beginning of your claim and benefits may not be paid for the week(s) of unemployment that occurred prior to the week of filing.

How to apply for UI benefits:

We are committed to providing you with prompt and courteous service. Our goal is to ensure that you can apply for benefits quickly and efficiently. Simply follow these steps:

Be ready with the following information:

- Social Security Number
- Date of birth (month, day, year)
- Home address, telephone number, and email address (if available)
- Whether you have filed a UI claim in Massachusetts, or in any other state during the past 12 months
- The names and addresses of all employers you have worked for during the past 15 months, and the dates you worked for each employer. If you are reopening a claim, be prepared to provide the same information for any employment you have had since your claim was last active.
- Your Military discharge papers – form DD-214, member 4 (if you were separated from Military service with any branch of the U.S. armed forces within the past 18 months)
- If you were employed by the federal government within the past 18 months, the SF-8 and/or SF-50 form given to you by your government employer at the time of your separation
- The reason why you are no longer working or why your hours have been reduced

- Last day of employment
- The names, dates of birth, and Social Security Numbers of any dependent children that you plan to claim as a dependent
- Alien registration number or verification that you were legally eligible to work in the United States, and that you are currently eligible to begin a new job

Select the method that is most convenient for you:

There are two ways you can apply for benefits.



Apply using UI Online:

UI Online is a safe, secure, easy-to-use, self-service system. If you choose to use UI Online, you will complete the information online and submit your application using a computer with Internet access. If you do not have access to a computer, visit your local library or One-Stop Career Center to use free, publicly-available computers.

To apply using UI Online (5:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily):

1. Go to www.mass.gov/dua and select **UI Online for Claimants**.
2. Then select **Apply for Benefits**. When you apply for benefits using UI Online for the first time, you will be asked to enter your Social Security Number (SSN), create a password, and select a security question and answer. It is important for you to remember your password and security question and answer. You will use your SSN and password to access UI Online each week to request your benefit payment. If you forget your password, you can reset it by clicking **Forgot Password**, answering the security question, and selecting a new password.
3. Complete all information requested. You will receive a confirmation message after you submit your application. If your application is interrupted, you can go back and complete it before 10:00 p.m. on Saturday of the same week.

Tip: Be sure to provide your telephone number and email address – it will make it easier for us to contact you if there are questions about your application.



Apply by phone using the TeleClaim Center:

To apply for benefits by phone (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday):

1. Call the TeleClaim Center toll-free at 877-626-6800: from area codes 351, 413, 508, 774, and 978; or 617-626-6800 from any other area code.
2. Select English or another language.
3. Press 1 – to apply for benefits. Enter your SSN and the year you were born. You will then be connected to an agent who will take the information necessary to file your claim.

Note: During peak periods from Monday through Thursday, call scheduling may be implemented providing priority for callers based on the last digit of their Social Security number. This helps ensure that everyone can get through to the Teleclaim Center in a timely manner. Please check the schedule below before calling:

If the last digit of your SSN is:	Assigned day to call Teleclaim is:
0, 1	Monday
2, 3	Tuesday
4, 5, 6	Wednesday
7, 8, 9	Thursday
Any last digit	Friday

How to create or change your Personal Identification Number (PIN) for TeleCert:

When you apply for benefits by telephone for the first time, you will be asked to create your PIN. If you have previously created your PIN and do not remember it, or need to change your PIN, call the PIN Service Line at 617-626-6943. The PIN Service Line is available seven days a week from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. You will need a touch-tone phone to use the PIN Service Line. Note: Please be aware that smart phones with QWERTY keyboard sometimes do not work when answering the security question. Instead, use a cellular phone or land line.