



DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2020

Reference No.: UIPP 2020.11

TO: All Senior Staff Directors, DUA Managers, Career Center Field Operations Directors and UI staff

FROM: John Saulnier, Director of Benefit Performance

SUBJECT: New Maximum UI Weekly Benefit Amount

The DUA Research Department has provided notification that the maximum UI weekly benefit amount to be paid to any individual whose benefit year commences on or after the first Sunday in October 2020 and prior to the first Sunday in October 2021 will be \$855.00. This rate will become effective for new benefit years beginning Sunday, October 4, 2020. This new maximum benefit rate does not include any dependency allowance payable to the claimant. The new rate was calculated in accordance with Section 29 of Chapter 151A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

This new maximum rate represents a \$32.00 increase from the existing maximum rate of \$823.00. UI Staff may encounter questions as to how the rate is calculated. Staff should answer these questions by providing the information listed below.

The rate is based on the following calculations:

- Average monthly employment (# of jobs) for the 12 months ending March 2020 (UI Contributory only:) 2,851,895
- UI Contributory payroll for the 12 months ending March 2019: \$220,636,026,200
- Average annual wage: \$77,364.71
- Average weekly wage: \$1,487.78
- Maximum weekly benefit amount = average weekly wage x .575 (then rounded to the next lowest dollar:) \$855.47 = \$855.00

If you have any questions regarding the new maximum benefit amount, please email the UI Policy and Performance department at UIPolicyandPerformance@detma.org.
