



**DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE**  
**UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** December 19, 2019

**Reference No.:** UIPP 2019.07

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

**FROM:** Emmy Patronick, Director of Policy and Performance

**SUBJECT:** New Minimum Base Period Wage Requirement for Claims

For claims effective on and after Sunday, January 5, 2020, the new minimum base period wage requirement for Unemployment Insurance eligibility is \$5,100. The current minimum base period wage requirement is \$4,700. M.G.L. Chapter 151A, 24 (a) requires the minimum base period wage requirement for establishing an unemployment insurance claim to be increased annually proportionate to any increases which have occurred in the state minimum wage during the previous calendar year and rounded down to the nearest hundred dollars, effective the first Sunday in January.

On January 1, 2019, the Massachusetts minimum wage was increased from \$11.00 to \$12.00 per hour. The calculations for the new increase are displayed below.

State minimum wage in effect prior to 01/01/2019:	\$11.00 per hour
State minimum wage effective 01/01/2019:	\$12.00 per hour
Increase:	\$1.00 per hour or 9.00%
Minimum wage requirement for CY 2019:	\$4700
Proportional increase ( $\$4700 \times 1.090$ ):	\$5123
Minimum wage requirement effective 1/5/2020:	\$5100 (rounded down to nearest hundred dollars)

If you have any questions regarding the new minimum base period wage requirement for unemployment insurance claims, please contact the UI Policy and Performance department at (617) 626-6422