

## File a Claim

If you've lost your job in Alabama, you can File a Claim at the [Alabama Department of Labor's website](#).

## Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Alabama law. Here are the three primary ways you may lose your job and how each relates to your Eligibility for benefits:

- **Layoffs** due to "downsizing" or a reduction-in-force will qualify you for benefits.
- **Firing** due to misconduct related to your job makes you ineligible for benefits. However, if you're fired simply because you weren't a good fit or lacked the skills to perform the job, you may be able to collect.
- **Quitting** your job will make you ineligible for benefits unless your work environment had become so hostile you felt you had to leave (e.g., sexual harassment).

You must have made a certain amount of money during your base period. Your base period is the earliest four of the five completed calendar quarters before you filed your benefits claim. For example, if your claim was filed on Oct. 10, 2019, your base period would be the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2018, and ending June 30, 2019. To be eligible for benefits, you must have:

- Worked at least two quarters during your base period;
- Earned at least one-and-a-half times your earnings (throughout the entire base period) in the highest-paid quarter of the period; and Garnered an average quarterly earning of at least \$1,157.01 during the two highest-paid quarters of the base period.

You must be able to work, available to work and seeking employment. If you find a suitable position, you must accept it. Suitability varies depending on your skill set, training, salary and more. Over time, if you still haven't found work, you may have to compromise on a job that doesn't quite match what you were doing before.

## Duration of Benefits

Alabama residents can collect unemployment benefits for 26 weeks.

## Weekly Benefit Rate

Benefits per week range from a minimum of \$45 to a maximum of \$265 calculated using your base period earnings.