

File a Claim

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

Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by California 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 before losing your job, which is calculated by 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. In California, you must meet one of the two following requirements:

- You must have earned at least \$1,300 in your highest-paid quarter of the base period.
- You must have earned at least \$900 in your highest-paid quarter of the base period and at least one-and-a-quarter times your earnings in the highest-paid quarter during the entire base period.

You must be able to work, available to work and seeking employment.

Duration of Benefits

California residents can collect full unemployment benefits for between 12 and 26 weeks, varying based on total earnings during the base period.

Weekly Benefit Rate

Benefits range from \$40 per week to \$450 per week.