

File a Claim

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

Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Florida 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** for reasons related to misconduct 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 may be able to collect benefits if you quit due to compelling personal reasons, such as caring for an ill family member.

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 Florida, in order to be eligible, you must meet the following wage requirements:

- You must have earned wages in at least two of the four quarters during base period.
- You must have earned at least \$3,400 during full base period.
- Your total base period earnings must be more than one-and-a-half times the highest wage quarter.

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

Florida residents can collect unemployment benefits for somewhere between 12 to 23 weeks, depending on Florida's employment rate. In 2018 and 2019, you could only claim benefits for 12 weeks.

Weekly Benefit Rate

You can receive up to \$275 per week.