

File a Claim

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

Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Georgia 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 there was a material change in your working relationship (e.g., your employer didn't pay you). Unlike many other states, there are no personal reasons for **Quitting** that allow you to collect benefits.

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

- You must have insured wages in at least two quarters of the base period.
- Your insured wages must equal at least \$1,134 in the two highest quarters of the base period.
- Your insured wages during the base period must equal at least one-and-a-half times the highest quarter of earnings.

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

Georgia residents can collect unemployment benefits for between 14 weeks and 20 weeks, depending on the unemployment rate.

Weekly Benefit Rate

You can receive somewhere between \$44 per week and \$330 per week.