

File a Claim

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

Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Massachusetts 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 you can prove there was a compelling work-related reason that forced you to leave (e.g., sexual harassment, dangerous working conditions).

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

- You must have earned at least \$3,500 during the base period.
- Your wages must have been at least 30 times the amount of your weekly unemployment benefits.

Massachusetts offers an alternative base period that takes into consideration your three most recent completed quarters, as well as the quarter in which you filed your claim.

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

Massachusetts residents can collect unemployment benefits for a maximum of 30 weeks, with additional weeks during times of very high unemployment.

Weekly Benefit Rate

You may receive a maximum of \$698 per week as well as \$25 per week for each dependent, up to one-half of your Weekly Benefit Rate.