

## File a Claim

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

## Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Maryland 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 misconduct related to your job. There are tiers of Eligibility:
  - You wait 15 weeks to receive benefits after "simple" misconduct.
  - You must get a new job and earn at least 25 times your weekly benefit amount to be eligible for unemployment after "gross" misconduct.
  - You must get a new job and earn at least 30 times your weekly benefit amount to be eligible for unemployment after "aggravated" misconduct.
- **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 may also qualify if you meet certain compelling personal reasons, such as moving with your partner if he or she is relocated by the military.

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

- You must have made at least \$1,176 in your highest-paid quarter of the base period.
- You must have earned at least one-and-a-half 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. 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

Maryland residents can collect unemployment benefits for a maximum of 26 weeks, with additional weeks during times of high unemployment.

## Weekly Benefit Rate

You may receive somewhere between \$50 and \$430 per week.