

## File a Claim

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

## Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Rhode Island 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** would make you ineligible for benefits. If there was a compelling personal reason that forced you to leave (e.g., sexual harassment, dangerous working conditions, relocation with a military spouse), you will likely receive 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. To qualify for benefits in Rhode Island, you must meet the following criteria:

- You've been paid at least \$4,040 during the base period.
- You've been paid at least \$2,020 during the highest quarter in your base period.
- Combining the entire base period, you must have made at least one-and-a-half times what you earned in the highest-paid 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

Rhode Island residents can collect unemployment benefits for between 15 and 26 weeks, which varies based on the employment rate.

## Weekly Benefit Rate

You can receive somewhere between \$51 and \$566, as well as \$15 for each dependent (up to five dependents).