

## File a Claim

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

## Eligibility

You must be unemployed through no fault of your own, as defined by Wisconsin 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.

Wisconsin offers an alternative base period, which looks at the wages from the four most recently completed quarters.

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 Wisconsin, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have been paid wages in two of the four quarters of your base period.
- A certain amount of wages in your highest-paid quarter.
- The combined wages in your three lowest quarters must equal at least four times your weekly benefits.
- Your total base period wages must be equal to at least 35 times your weekly benefit.
- If you were paid benefits in a prior benefit year, you must have worked since the beginning of that benefit year and earned at least eight times the Weekly Benefit Rate you're claiming.

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 other factors. 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

Wisconsin residents can collect unemployment benefits for up to 26 weeks.

## Weekly Benefit Rate

You can receive somewhere between \$54 and \$370.