

Maine Employment Security Law



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Full- and Part-Time Workers

Basic eligibility requirements

Earnings during the base period: The “base period” is a one-year period that includes four calendar quarters. To establish a claim, an individual must have earned two times the annual average weekly wage in Maine in each of two different calendar quarters, and a total of six times the annual, average, weekly wage in Maine in the whole base period. In most cases, the Department of Labor has your wage information on file. If it is not on file, the Department will take steps to obtain it.

Separation: If you were laid off from your last job due to a lack of work, no additional investigation is required. If you separated from your last job for reasons other than lack of work, you will be scheduled for a fact-finding interview. A determination will then be made regarding your eligibility for benefits.

Weekly requirements: Weekly eligibility requirements include being able to work and being available for work, making an active search for work (unless your work search has been approved by the Department of Labor).

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