

## Applying for Unemployment Compensation in Ohio



### Who qualifies for unemployment compensation?

To qualify, a claimant must be totally or partially unemployed due to no fault of their own and have worked for a covered employer for at least 20 weeks with a minimum average weekly wage of \$298 before taxes and other deductions. (The minimum average weekly wage amount changes each calendar year.) A covered employer is one who paid into the unemployment compensation program. Most, though not all, employers are covered.

You are considered unemployed through no fault of your own if you were laid off due to a lack of work, quit with just cause, or were fired without just cause. The claimant is responsible for proving that they had just cause to quit.



### How much will I receive in unemployment compensation?

Payments are made weekly for not more than half of your average weekly wage, with maximum payment amounts based on the number of dependents you are claiming. For weekly benefit amounts, see Ohio's Benefits Estimator at [unemployment.ohio.gov/PDF/Benefits\\_Estimator.pdf](https://unemployment.ohio.gov/PDF/Benefits_Estimator.pdf).

You can receive unemployment for up to 26 weeks, depending on how many weeks of qualifying employment you had.

You can choose to receive unemployment benefits by direct deposit into your bank account or on prepaid debit card.



### When should I apply for unemployment compensation?

You should apply for unemployment compensation as soon as you become unemployed through no fault of your own. Ohio has a one week waiting period before you can start receiving unemployment, but that week does not start until you apply.



### How do I apply for unemployment compensation?

You can apply for unemployment in one of two ways:

- Apply online at [unemployment.ohio.gov](https://unemployment.ohio.gov) at any time, any day
- Apply over the phone by calling 1-877-OHIO-JOB (1-877-644-6562) between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays
- Or by using TTY 1-614-387-8408



### What will I need to apply for unemployment compensation?

- To apply for unemployment benefits, you will need:
- Your social security number and driver's license or state ID number
- Your name, address, telephone number, and email address
- The name, address, and telephone number, and dates worked for every employer you had in the previous six weeks

- The reason you became totally or partially unemployed from each employer
- If you have dependents, their names, social security numbers, and dates of birth
- If you are married and claiming dependents (even if you are not claiming your spouse), your spouse's name and social security number
- If you are not a US citizen or national, your alien registration number and the expiration date of your work authorization
- Your regular occupation and job skills

If you were employed in a state other than Ohio, or by the federal government, or were in the military, you will need more information, including: Form DD-214 member 4 copy (for military service); or SF-8 or SF-50 form (for federal government employment).

During your application, you will create an online unemployment compensation account, with a personal identification number, or PIN, which will serve as your password. Your username will be your social security number.

Individuals now need an OH|ID to file unemployment claims online. For more information, see [jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/pdf/OJI\\_OHID\\_registration.pdf](https://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/pdf/OJI_OHID_registration.pdf)



### **How do I maintain my claim for unemployment compensation?**

You must file weekly claims and must report any income paid or payable to you during each week you claim unemployment, including retirement, severance, vacation, or bonus pay, and any income from part-time work or odd jobs.

To continue receiving unemployment compensation, you must be able and available for suitable work, actively seeking new employment, and accept any offered suitable employment.

You should check your online account, email account or mail on a regular basis as more information may be needed to process your claims. Respond to any requests for information promptly to avoid denials of weekly claims.



### **Are unemployment compensation benefits subject to taxes?**

Yes, unemployment compensation benefits are taxable income. You will receive a 1099 by January 31 of the following year in which taxes need to be filed.

You can choose to have taxes withheld from your unemployment compensation payments.



### **What if I disagree with the decision made about my unemployment compensation?**

You can appeal decisions made by unemployment about your eligibility, the amount you receive, or other decisions about your benefits. You have 21 days from the issuance/ mailing date of the notices to appeal.

Each Determination, Redetermination, or Decision will include appeal rights. Be sure to read the information carefully and file timely appeals. Keep a copy of your appeal for your records.

If you want help with an appeal, you can contact your local legal aid at 1-800-589-5888.



## **How do I find other information about Ohio's Unemployment Compensation program?**

You can go directly to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Unemployment Compensation for employees at: [unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/employee](https://unemploymenthelp.ohio.gov/employee)

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*The information on this flyer is not legal advice. If you are seeking representation or legal advice, please contact SEOLS. An attorney-client relationship does not exist between you and SEOLS.*

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### **How to contact SEOLS:**

**[www.seols.org](http://www.seols.org)**

**Athens Office**      **740.594.3558**  
**800.686.3669**

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**Chillicothe Office**      **740.773.0012**  
**800.686.3668**

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**Newark Office**      **740.345.0850**  
**888.831.9412**

Serving Knox, Licking, Muskingum, and Perry Counties

**New Philadelphia Office**      **330.339.3998**  
**800.686.3670**

Serving Coshocton, Guernsey, Holmes, and Tuscarawas Counties

**Portsmouth Office**      **740.354.7563**  
**800.837.2508**

Serving Adams, Lawrence, and Scioto Counties

**Steubenville Office**      **740.283.4781**  
**800.837.4781**

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