

The one-year dates of your Montana unemployment claim

Your Unemployment claim is valid for one year from the week it's filed. It starts on Sunday of the week you file it, and that's called the Claim Effective Date. You have an amount of benefits available to you for any time during that year that you are eligible.

The Claim End Date is the last date a payment can be made on this claim.

The remaining balance available is how much money you have left to draw on.

Whichever runs out first, the money or the date, is the end of benefits on this claim.

The Monetary Determination sent to you in the mail is your official notice of the wages that your claim is based on, your weekly benefit amount, and your total or maximum benefit amount. If you divide the maximum by the weekly amount, you see how many weeks of full benefits are available to you. If you are getting partial benefits while working reduced hours, you can continue to draw as long as you have a balance, up until the benefit year end.

Biweekly filing and Pending Dates

UI is structured for you to request benefits two weeks at a time, like turning in a time card for a two-week pay period. The pending dates are the two weeks that are available for you to request payment, after they are over. After you answer the eligibility questions and those answers are processed, the next two pending dates are generated and two weeks' payment is sent. You can file every week and receive a week's payment each week, but the pending dates are still put on-screen two at a time, every other week. Refer to the Claimant Handbook for more details.

If you see only one pending week date, you are in the middle of the two-week cycle. After you have filed for the single pending week, the next two dates will be generated. You cannot request benefits until after the week is completely over at midnight Saturday, so Sunday is the earliest you can file, and you have all that week to get it done. Our nightly processing takes place on business days after 6 pm and payment goes out the next morning. If you have active issues, payment is **not** sent, and you continue to file until your issues are resolved. If the decisions on your issues allow benefits, payment is sent then for the weeks you filed while waiting.

Active, Inactive, and Reactivating Your claim

Your claim is active if this week's Saturday date is a pending week.

You must have an active claim to be able to file for and receive payment for this week. If you didn't file, worked too many hours, or earned too much for 2 or more weeks, the system inactivates your claim.

If you want benefits for this week, check your payment information for this Saturday's date. If it's there, you will be able to request benefits for this week after it's over. If the date isn't there, reactivate your claim before midnight Saturday. Then request the benefits after the week is over.

To stop your claim, you just stop requesting benefits and your claim becomes inactive. If you have a valid claim but have been working and not filing, you must reactivate as soon as you are reduced in hours or laid off so you can again claim benefits.

Personal Information and Direct Deposit

Keep your mailing address, phone #, and email address current so we can contact you. You are the only one that can enter or delete your direct deposit information. Keep your PIN number confidential for security on your claim.