



Extended Benefits – FACT SHEET 2009

Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 ("EB Law") 26 U.S.C. 3304(a) (11) - Public Law 110-449 & 111-5 39-51-2501 – 39-51-2511 Montana Code Annotated

When did the state qualify for the Extended Benefits Program? Based on the unemployment level during the week of February 28, 2009, Montana "triggered on" to Extended Benefits (EB).

When is the earliest effective date for an Extended Benefit claim? The first effective date of an initial claim under EB is March 15, 2009.

How can a claimant file a claim?

Claimants may call (406) 444-2545 (Helena) or (406) 247-1000 (Billings) for claim filing information. Claimants will also receive notification by mail or e-mail which will provide claim filing instructions and other information about the EB program.

How did Montana become eligible for Extended Benefits? When a state reaches an Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) of 5% or greater and the current unemployment rate is 120% higher than it was for the same period in the past two years, the state "triggers on" to extended benefits.

What does this program mean for Montana Unemployment Insurance Claimants? A claimant may file a claim for EB if the claimant has exhausted all regular and Emergency Unemployment Compensation (first and second tier), and the regular claim benefit year ends during the EB period, or they exhausted their EUC during the EB period. A claimant cannot receive EB if he or she is eligible to file a regular unemployment claim in Montana or any other state.

What is the number of weeks of potential eligibility? The duration of the EB claim is the lesser of 50 percent of the total amount of regular compensation, or 13 times the individual's average weekly benefit amount for the benefit year. (Not to exceed 39 weeks when combining regular UI weeks and EB weeks).

Example 1: If a claimant's "regular" claim was eligible for 22 weeks, the EB claim would be eligible for 11 weeks of benefits.

Example 2: If a claimant's "regular" claim was eligible for 28 weeks, the EB claim would be eligible for 13 weeks.

How much per week would a claimant be eligible to receive? The claimant would be eligible for the same weekly benefit amount as on the claimant's most recent "regular" claim.

Example: If their regular Unemployment Insurance claim was eligible for \$200 per week the EB claim would be eligible for \$200 per week.

How long will the Extended Benefit program remain available? The EB program will be available to claimants for a minimum of 13 weeks, or longer if the state remains in the EB period. The period ends when the state reaches the program "trigger off" levels by going below the IUR of 5% and 120%.

How will claimants be notified of their potential eligibility? Notification will be made by mail or e-mail to potentially eligible individuals.

What are the differences between EB and regular UI? The most significant difference is that all claimants claiming EB (including job and union attached) must register for work with Job Service and must make two work searches each week, unless the claimant has a verified return to work or hire date within 4-weeks. Work searches must be reported to UI for every week claimed under EB. Work searches will be reviewed by the UI program before payments are released.

Will employers' accounts be charged for these benefits? All private experience rated employers and certain non-profit employers will not be charged for any extended benefits paid. Governmental and Tribal employers (experience rated and reimbursable) will be charged for 100% of the benefits chargeable to their accounts.