



## Quarterly News

### New CLAIM Portal – MontanaWorks

Have you heard? Montana has a new site for filing Unemployment Insurance benefit claims, [MontanaWorks.gov](http://MontanaWorks.gov)

Through [MontanaWorks](http://MontanaWorks), in addition to registering with Job Service, job seekers can now:

- File or reactivate an Unemployment Insurance claim,
- Request payment,
- Request a redetermination or appeal,
- Access information about a UI Claim,
- Upload documents, and
- Access UI resources such as the Partial Benefits Calculator, Claimant Handbook, and more.

The [MontanaWorks](http://MontanaWorks) claim portal replaces UI4U. All UI claimants, even those who are job or union attached, must register and file for UI through [MontanaWorks.gov](http://MontanaWorks.gov)

As an employer, please help us spread the word regarding the new claim site. If you would like to obtain a new Notification of Coverage poster (UI-9) with the updated MontanaWorks site information, please contact our office at (406) 444-3834, option 9.

### eServices Webinar

**January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 1:30pm (MST)**

Join us for a live webinar showcasing how convenient and easy it is to use UI eServices for Employers. We'll demonstrate how to sign-up, file and pay quarterly UI reports, respond to SIDES requests and more.

Email [uieservices@mt.gov](mailto:uieservices@mt.gov) to register for the webinar. Please provide your name, contact information and the name of the organization you represent.

If you can't join the live webinar, a recorded version can be found on [uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov) under the "Need Help?" section.

## 2020 Contribution Rates

UI Tax Rate Notices for 2020 were mailed the week of December 16, 2019. Contribution rates for 2020 were set using rate Schedule I.

If you misplaced your notice, you can look up your rate and/or print a copy of your notice on UI eServices ([uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov)).

If you received a penalty rate, the deadline to file any delinquent quarterly reports and pay any balances due is January 17, 2020.

If you are not already, we strongly encourage all third-party payroll providers to participate in our Fiscal Rate Exchange. Once signed up, you can electronically request and receive the UI rates for all your clients as often as needed. Refer to our eServices HELP page ([uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov)) and the [Quarterly Fiscal Rate Exchange Handbook](#) for more information or call (406) 444-3834, option 2.

**Note:** 2020 rates cannot be requested through the rate exchange until January 1.

## Taxable Wage Base

The taxable wage base for 2020 is \$34,100, an increase from \$33,000 in 2019. The taxable wage base is 80% of Montana's 2018 average annual wage (\$42,598) rounded to the nearest \$100.

If you use payroll software, be sure to update your 2020 rate and taxable wage base to prevent errors when calculating tax due next year.

## **SafetyFestMT**

The first SafetyFest in 2020 will be held in Missoula the week of March 16-20. To obtain further information, go to <http://safetyfestmt.com/>.



## Coming Early 2020 Additional Fact-Finding (ADF)

The latest in SIDES exchanges of information, Additional Fact-Finding (ADF), will be deployed in early 2020. The new exchange will allow UI to communicate electronically with employers if follow-up or rebuttal information is needed before a separation decision can be made.

If you are already using SIDES, no action is needed. If an Additional Fact-Finding request is initiated, you will receive an email directing you to log into [UI eServices](#) and respond using SIDES E-Response. Just as you do with any other SIDES request.

If you are not participating in SIDES yet, we encourage you to sign-up today. It's fast, free, and greatly reduces any forfeiture of rights to protest benefit eligibility or benefit charges.

To sign-up, visit [uieservices.mt.gov](http://uieservices.mt.gov) and provide the name and email address for the person(s) responsible for responding to UI benefit claims requests for information. It's that easy!

For more information on SIDES or help getting started, contact our customer support team at (406) 444-3834, option 2.

**SIDES Webinar - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month  
from 1:30 to 2:30 (MST).  
Email [uisides@mt.gov](mailto:uisides@mt.gov) to register.**

## Confidential Information

The Montana Unemployment Insurance Division must notify employers that wage information and other confidential unemployment insurance information may be requested and used for governmental purposes other than unemployment compensation. For example, federal and state law allows use of confidential UI information to verify an individual's eligibility for other government programs.

We take our responsibility to protect the confidentiality of employer and claimant information very seriously. Confidential UI information, including your name, address, FEIN, UI account number, wage information, and social security numbers of individuals, is released only after careful verification of the requesting authority.

## Bonuses

Remember to include any bonuses paid to employees on your UI quarterly wage report. All cash or non-cash payments given to employees for services performed are considered wages. For more information on reportable wages and employment, see Section 3 in our Employer Handbook which can be found online at [uid.dli.mt.gov](http://uid.dli.mt.gov)

## Questions on Benefit Charging or Claims?

Call the Employer Benefit Claims Phone Line at 406-444-0399. We are here to help! Hours are 8 am – 4 pm (closed for lunch 12 – 1).