



Quarterly News

Unemployment Insurance Fraud

Across the nation, state UI systems are under attack by criminals at a rate not seen since the COVID-19 pandemic. Montana is no exception, and while we are confident in our ability to identify and reject fraudulent claims, we ask for your patience and cooperation as we combat this threat.

You may have received one or more letters in recent days, indicating that an employee of yours has filed for UI benefits. In many cases, these workers may still be loyal, hardworking employees of your firm. You may have been, rightfully, confused as to what is going on.

Here is what you need to know:

The good news is that our new, modernized UI system has intercepted these claims, and no benefits will be paid to the fraudulent claimants. **Your employer accounts will not be charged, and the balance in Montana's UI trust fund is being protected.**

In the meantime, we ask that you pay close attention to your [UI eServices for Employers](#) account. If a fact-finding request comes in for an employee, please complete it accurately and in a timely manner – even if said employee is still working for you. Your quick response to the series of fact-finding questions will help Montana UI more quickly eliminate fraudulent claims, while ensuring legitimate claimants receive their benefits in a timely manner.

You could also let impacted employees know that their identities may have been compromised. [Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen's website](#) offers a host of resources for individuals victimized by identity theft, and we recommend you share this information with your employees. Unfortunately, while Montana UI is frequently able to detect fraudulent claims, we have no information on the source of stolen information.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation in this matter.

2024 Contribution Rates

UI Tax Rate Notices for 2024 will be mailed the week of December 18th, 2023. Based on a healthy UI Trust Fund balance, Contribution rates for 2024 remained at rate schedule one. Refer to our annual [Rate-Explanation](#) flyer for more information.

You can look up your rate and/or print a copy of your notice on [UI eServices for Employers](#), after December 15th. If you receive a penalty rate, the deadline to file any delinquent quarterly reports and pay the balances due will be January 19th, 2024.

If you are not already, we strongly encourage all third-party payroll providers to participate in our Rate Exchange. Once signed up, you can electronically request the UI rates for all your clients. **Note:** 2024 rates cannot be requested, through the rate exchange, until January 1.

Refer to our [Fiscal Rate Exchange Handbook](#) for more information or call (406) 444-3834 to speak with one of our eServices Customer Support Team.

2024 Taxable Wage Base

The 2024 taxable wage base will be \$43,000 which is 80% of the 2022 average annual wage (\$53,793), rounded to the nearest \$100. We recommend you do not update payroll software with the 2024 taxable wage base until AFTER you file the UI report for the fourth quarter of 2023.

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](#).

Report Fraud

If you suspect a person or business is committing UI fraud, go to [uieservices.mt.gov](#) and select [Report Unemployment Insurance Fraud](#) under UI Resources. Or contact our fraud investigators at (406) 444-0072 or mtuifraud@mt.gov. You can remain anonymous!



Amending Quarterly Reports

It's a good time of year for annual payroll reconciliations! If you find mistakes, there are three ways to amend your Montana quarterly unemployment insurance reports:

#1 UI eServices for Employers (uieservices.mt.gov): Click the View/Amend link next to the quarter you wish to update. Once the report is open, click the Change button in the upper righthand corner to:

- Add or remove employees
- Update social security numbers
- Correct wage amounts and/or excess
- Add or update employee counts

Please include a detailed explanation of the changes you are making in the space provided.

To ensure your 4th quarter excess is calculated correctly, submit amended reports BEFORE filing the 4th quarter report. Begin with the oldest quarter first.

#2 FSET/ICESA Formats: Payroll services can use FSET or ICESA file formats to amend reports. However, to ensure timely and accurate processing, an explanation of the changes is helpful. Log into eServices and submit a secure web message letting us know the employer's name and account number, name(s) of employee(s) whose wages and/or SSN you are correcting, and the reason for the amendment.

#3 Amended Paper Report: Please write "AMENDED" at the top of the report and check the Amended Report box in Step 1. Attach an explanation which identifies the employees whose SSN's or wages are changing and provide the reason for the change.

Regardless of which method you choose, please submit any applicable tax due with the amended report. And, if you are removing wages which should have been reported to another state, please identify the state where the wages should have been reported.

If you have questions or need help amending your quarterly report, please call (406) 444-3834.

SafetyFestMT

For more information, safetyfestmt.dli.mt.gov

Secure Web Messaging

With our efforts to streamline processes and improve security, the Unemployment Insurance Division (UID) discontinued the use of fax machines in October 2023. Employers and Third-Party Administrators are encouraged to use [UI eServices for Employers](#) to securely transmit information to our office.

To submit a secure web message, log into UI eServices for Employers and navigate to the More... tab found under either Manage My Profile or at the customer account level. Select **View and Send Messages** from the Correspondence panel. Select the most appropriate category and topic of your message to ensure it is routed to the appropriate team timely.

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.



**ASSISTANCE for
BUSINESS CLINIC**

Planning for 2024 Assistance for Business Clinic sessions is underway. Go online to dli.mt.gov/resources/abc-clinics for information as it becomes available.

Questions about Benefit Charges on your account?

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