



# Information on the Unemployment Insurance Program

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employment  
benefits



# Monetary Qualification

- An individual must have earned at least \$3,000 in two quarters of the base period to qualify for unemployment benefits. The base period consists of the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters prior to the date of claim filing.
- For claims filed weekly benefit amounts range from \$60 to \$378.
- Wages are not covered for unemployment insurance purposes if the individual is working as an appointee in a major non-tenured policymaking or advisory position (Section 60.2-213B.6.e of the Code of Virginia).

# Separation Qualification



- An individual must be unemployed through no fault of his/her own. If the reason for separation is other than lack of work, an adjudicator will determine benefit eligibility.
- An individual who voluntarily leaves employment must show good cause for doing so in order to be eligible for benefits.
- An individual who is discharged from a job can be eligible for unemployment benefits if the discharge was for reasons other than misconduct.

# Ongoing Eligibility Criteria



- An individual must be able and available to work. He/she must also be actively seeking work.
- The individual must accept any offer of suitable work or show good cause for failing to do so.
- An individual will be ineligible for benefits in any week he/she earns wages equal to or in excess of the weekly benefit amount. The individual may receive partial benefits for weeks in which he/she earns less than the weekly benefit amount.

# Severance/ Accrued Leave Pay

- Severance pay (not WTA) including accrued leave pay is typically not deductible from an individual's weekly benefit amount.

# Workforce Transition Act (WTA)

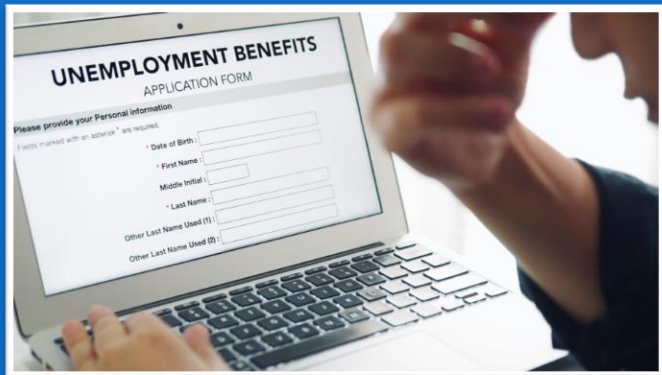
- Payments made under the **Workforce Transition Act (WTA)** are not deductible from an individual's weekly benefit amount. However, the law requires the separating state agency to reduce each week of WTA by the amount of unemployment benefit payment. The withheld WTA amount is payable to the individual with the last WTA payment. For example, if you are entitled to receive \$500 per week for 19 weeks from WTA and \$200 per week in unemployment benefits, your WTA weekly amount will be reduced to \$300 (\$500 minus \$200). At the end of 19 weeks, you will be paid the total sum of these deductions or \$3,800 (\$200 x 19).

# Retirement Pensions

- If an individual receives a retirement pension from a base period employer, the weekly pension amount is deductible dollar-for-dollar from the unemployment benefit weekly amount. The individual is ineligible for unemployment benefits for any week in which the pension amount is equal to or exceeds the weekly unemployment benefit amount.

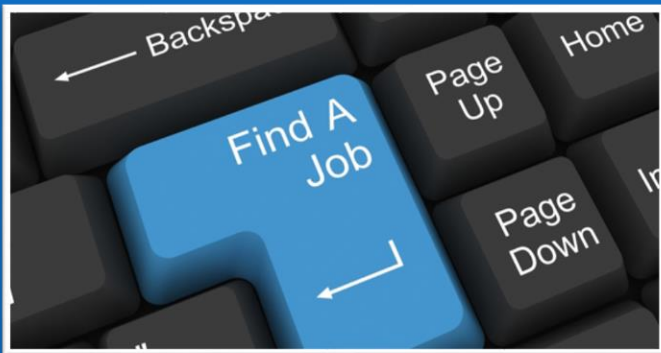
# How To File A Claim For Benefits

- A claim may be filed by telephone at **(866)832-2363**
- by internet at [www.vec.virginia.com](http://www.vec.virginia.com) \*\* The VEC will be launching a new unemployment benefits system in October 2021. Information on our new operating system will be posted on our website.





# Job Assistance



- To be eligible for unemployment benefits, an individual must register with the VEC for employment assistance. The VEC can provide job seekers with exposure to a variety of local and statewide job opportunities in the private sector as well as state and federal government positions. A substantial cross-section of employers uses the VEC for all job recruiting. For information on job registration and/or job openings, please visit the VEC website at **[www.vec.virginia.com](http://www.vec.virginia.com)**. You will find listings of jobs currently filed with the Virginia Workforce Connection, as well as links to many other employment-related sites.