

Comparing State UC Monetary Eligibility Rules, 2007

Prepared by Policy Matters Ohio, December 2007

Updated from original analysis by the National Employment Law Project (NELP)

State	Monetary Eligibility by Earnings (based on Full Year Work)			Must Earn This Amount in the Base Period Year	Minimum Wage ²
	Minimum Wage Worker/ 20 hrs per week	Minimum Wage Worker/ 29 hrs per week	\$9 Hour Worker/20 hours a week		
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,290	\$5.85
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,000	\$7.15
Arizona	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,250	\$6.75
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	\$1,971	\$6.25
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,125	\$7.50
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,500	\$6.85
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$780	\$7.65
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$920	\$6.65
Dist. of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,950	\$7.00
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,400	\$6.67
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,680	\$5.85
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$130	\$7.25
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,658	\$5.85
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,600	\$7.50
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,750	\$5.85
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,790	\$6.20
Kansas	No	No	No	\$3,030	\$5.85
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,982	\$5.85
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,200	\$5.85
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,827	\$7.00
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$900	\$6.15
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,000	\$7.50
Michigan	No	No	No	\$4,046	\$7.15
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,250	\$6.15
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,200	\$6.85
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,100	\$6.50
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,087	\$6.15
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,592	\$5.85
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$600	\$6.33
New Hampshire	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,800	\$5.85
New Jersey ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,860	\$7.15
New Mexico	No	Yes	Yes		\$5.85
New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,400	\$7.15
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$4,291	\$6.15

North Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,795	\$5.85
Ohio¹	No	No	No	\$4,000	\$6.85
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,500	\$5.85
Oregon ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,000	\$7.80
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,320	\$6.25
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,840	\$7.40
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$900	\$5.85
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,288	\$5.85
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,560	\$5.85
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,109	\$5.85
Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,800	\$5.85
Vermont	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,773	\$7.53
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,700	\$5.85
Washington ³	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$5,392	\$7.93
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,200	\$6.55
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,590	\$6.50
Wyoming	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,900	\$5.85
Total Number of States Where the Worker Does Not Qualify	6	3	3		

¹Ohio requires wages averaging \$200 per week in at least 20 weeks of work, thus base period earnings required are \$4,000. Workers working a full year would be required to earn at least \$10,400 to maintain a \$200 per week average. These numbers, like all others in this table, are for 2007. The required average will rise to \$206 a week in Ohio in 2008 (see text of release).

²This represents the U.S. or state minimum wage, whichever is higher and thus more likely to set the minimum for the great majority of workers.

³New Jersey, Oregon and Washington use hours of work as one basis for establishing monetary eligibility.

Explanation

NELP compiled the monetary eligibility rules for each of the states using federal surveys and an analysis of state laws. The Policy Matters update used 2007 requirements as compiled by the U.S. Department of Labor's Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws and Significant Provisions of State Unemployment Insurance Laws. Both NELP and Policy Matters tested hypothetical earnings profiles against those state requirements, assuming a full year's work. In most cases, states have a requirement based on a minimum amount earned in a calendar (high) quarter. In addition, they have a base period year amount that is either a multiple of that highest quarter requirement (typically 1.5 times) or an amount set by law. The sources below provide detail on state laws:

U.S. Department of Labor, Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws, 2007

<http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/uiilawcompar/2007/comparison2007.asp>

U.S. Department of Labor, Significant Provisions of State Unemployment Insurance Laws, July

2007 <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/unemploy/sigprojul2007.asp>

U.S. Department of Labor, Minimum Wage Laws in the States, July 24, 2007

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm>