

Comparing State UI Monetary Eligibility Rules, 2005
Prepared by the National Employment Law Project, February 2006

	Monetary Eligibility by Earnings (Based on Full Year Work)			Minimum Wages Needed to Qualify		Minimum Wage ²
	Minimum Wage Worker / 20 hrs per week	Minimum Wage Worker / 35 hrs per week	\$9 Hour Worker / 20 hours a week	Must Earn This Amount in the Base Period Year	Must Earn This Amount in One Calendar Quarter	
State						
Alabama	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,114	\$1,057	\$5.15
Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,000	NA	\$7.15
Arizona	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,250	\$1,500	\$5.15
Arkansas	No	Yes	Yes	\$1,755	\$1,690	\$5.15
California	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,125	\$900	\$6.75
Colorado	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,500	\$1,084	\$5.15
Connecticut	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$780	\$390	\$7.40
Delaware	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$920	NA	\$6.15
Dist. of Columbia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,950	\$1,300	\$7.00
Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,400	\$832	\$6.15
Georgia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,600	\$920	\$5.15
Hawaii	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$130	\$85	\$6.75
Idaho	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,658	\$1,326	\$5.15
Illinois	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,600	\$1,160	\$6.50
Indiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,750	\$1,000	\$5.15
Iowa	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,323	\$1,058	\$5.15
Kansas	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,670	\$1,978	\$5.15
Kentucky	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,945	\$750	\$5.15
Louisiana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,200	\$800	\$5.15
Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,534	\$1,178	\$6.50
Maryland	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$900	\$576	\$5.15
Massachusetts	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,000	NA	\$6.75
Michigan	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,964	\$1,976	\$5.15
Minnesota	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$6.15
Mississippi	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,200	\$780	\$5.15
Missouri	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,800	\$1,200	\$5.15
Montana	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,894	\$1,262	\$5.15
Nebraska	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,600	\$800	\$5.15
Nevada	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$600	\$400	\$5.15
New Hampshire	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,800	\$1,400	\$5.15
New Jersey	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,060	NA	\$5.15
New Mexico	No	Yes	Yes	NA	\$1,487	\$5.15
New York	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,400	\$1,600	\$6.00
North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,749	\$936	\$5.15
North Dakota	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,795	\$1,864	\$5.15
Ohio¹	No	No	No	\$3,720	NA	\$5.15
Oklahoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$5.15
Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$3,625	NA	\$7.25
Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,320	\$800	\$5.15
Rhode Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,013	\$1,341	\$6.75
South Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$900	\$540	\$5.15
South Dakota	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,288	\$728	\$5.15
Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,560	\$780	\$5.15
Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,998	\$1,326	\$5.15
Utah	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,500	\$1,667	\$5.15
Vermont	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,581	\$1,844	\$7.25
Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,700	NA	\$5.15
Washington	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$5,188	NA	\$7.35
West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$2,200	NA	\$5.15
Wisconsin	Yes	Yes	Yes	\$1,470	\$1,225	\$5.70
Wyoming	No	Yes	Yes	\$2,200	\$1,760	\$5.15
Total Number of States Where the Worker Does Not Qualify	11	1	1			

¹ Ohio requires wages averaging \$186 per week in at least 20 weeks of work, thus base period earnings required are \$3,720. Workers working a full year would be required to earn at least \$9,672 to maintain a \$186 per week average, and would have to make at least \$2,418 in a quarter. These numbers, like all others in this table, are for 2005; in 2006, the required average weekly wage in Ohio has increased.

² This 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.

Explanation

NELP compiled the monetary eligibility rules for each of the states using federal surveys and an analysis of state laws; for comparability, we used 2005 requirements. Then we tested hypothetical earnings profiles against those state requirements. In most cases, states have a requirement based on a minimum amount earned in a high quarter. In addition, they then 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. Some states use different schemes and are listed as NA in the high quarter column, including Ohio. In Ohio, workers must average \$186 per week in their base period of employment and have worked at least 20 weeks. Some states set their requirement as a minimum amount earned over the entire base period year. Other states utilize a minimum number of hours. The sources below provide detail on these state laws.

Sources

US Department of Labor, Comparison of State Unemployment Insurance Laws, 2005

US Department of Labor, Significant Provisions of UI Laws, July 2005

Montana Department of Labor, Benefit Estimator, Available at <http://uid.dli.mt.gov/uid/estimator.asp>

Montana Annotated Code, Section 39-51-2105

Oregon Revised Statutes, Section 657.150

Revised Code of Washington, Section 50.04.030

U.S. Department of Labor, Minimum Wage Laws of the States, August 2005