

Unemployment insurance benefits for ex-service members

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS?

If you were on active duty in the U.S. military, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. This depends on your service. You must have **completed your first full term of service and been separated under honorable conditions**. If you haven't completed your first full term of service, you may still be eligible. This depends on your past civilian work and the reason you were separated from the military.

WHERE CAN I FILE?

You may file in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. You must physically be in the state where you file your claim, but you don't need to live in that state. Payment amount is based on your military rank when you separated from service. Each state has its own formula for calculating weekly and total benefit amounts. Below is the list of maximum weekly benefit amounts per neighboring state as of 2025. Please contact the state to verify, as weekly amounts may change.

State	Max weekly benefit	Contact information	
Idaho	\$624	208-332-8942	labor.idaho.gov
Montana	\$767	406-444-2545	montanaworks.gov
Nevada	\$631	888-890-8211	ui.nv.gov
Oregon	\$872	877-345-3484	oregon.gov
Utah	\$777	888-848-0688	jobs.utah.gov
Washington	\$1,152	800-318-6022	esd.wa.gov
Wyoming*	\$651	307-473-3789	dws.wyo.gov

* Wyoming does not have a waiting week.

HOW DO YOU FILE?

You can apply online or over the phone. How you file depends on where you file your claim. You may need to give us a copy of your DD214. To request this form, [visit the VA website](#) or the [national archives website](#).

If you file in Idaho, file through the [Claimant Portal](#). Fax a copy of your DD214 to 208-334-6400, Attention: Benefits. If you don't have access to the internet, you can use a computer at any of the department's [local offices](#).

WHEN CAN I FILE MY CLAIM?

File your claim as soon as you are discharged from active duty. You must also be able and available for work. **Your claim cannot be accepted before your separation date.**

DO I QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS IF I RETIRE FROM THE MILITARY SERVICE?

It depends. If you retired from the military within the last two (2) years, your monthly retirement may be divided into weekly amounts. This amount will be subtracted from your weekly benefit. If your weekly pension amount is equal to or more than your weekly benefit amount, you won't be eligible for benefits.

WHEN WILL I START GETTING MY BENEFITS?

You will typically be paid at least two (2) weeks after you file for benefits. To be paid on time, file your weekly certifications and your DD214 in a timely manner.

ARE PAYMENTS AUTOMATIC?

No. To get benefits, you must be eligible. All states need you to be physically able and available to work for each week you claim benefits. The state you file in will tell you what else you must do to get benefits.

CAN YOU HELP ME FIND WORK?

Yes. To learn about veteran employment benefits and Priority of Service, [view Title 38](#). Your nearest veterans representative will help you use these benefits and find work.

You can consult a veteran representative at many of our local offices. Make an appointment for free assistance. Find your local office using the department's [local office directory](#).

You can also access job information at the [Idaho Department of Labor's website](#). Workshops on resume writing, interviewing and more are available. Check the [calendar of events](#) for specific dates.

If you were working before you entered the services and wish to return, contact your preservice employer. You may have reemployment rights with them.