

Unemployment benefits

Unemployment benefit compensation

Under the Oklahoma Employment Security Act, payments of money may be made under certain conditions to unemployed individuals from an unemployment compensation fund contributed by employers subject to the Act. These payments are known as unemployment benefit compensation.

Qualifying for unemployment benefits

In Oklahoma, a claimant can qualify for unemployment benefits if, during the claimant's base period, the claimant received wages from employers subject to the Oklahoma Employment Security Act amounting to:

- not less than \$1,500, and
- one and one-half times the amount of wages earned during the quarter of the base period in which such wages were highest.

However, any claimant with the maximum or more of taxable base period wages is eligible even if these wages were all in one quarter. After the beginning of a previous benefit year in which benefits were paid, a claimant's earnings must equal 10 times the weekly benefit amount in the new benefit year.

Base period

The base period is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the first day of a claimant's benefit year.

Benefit year

A benefit year is a period of one year that begins on Sunday of the week the claimant first files a valid claim.

Valid claim

A valid claim is a claim filed in accordance with the rules of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission by a claimant who has the necessary qualifying wages.