

# Unemployment Insurance Information for Ex-Service Members

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## Am I Eligible for Unemployment Insurance Benefits?

As an ex-service member, it is your right to file for unemployment insurance benefits after you are released from military services. You may establish a valid unemployment insurance claim based on your military service **if you completed your first full term of service** and **your separation was under honorable conditions**. Under certain situations, a valid unemployment insurance claim may be established even if you have not completed your first full term of service. Eligibility will depend upon the reason you were separated from military service. Your local Idaho Department of Labor office will tell you if you qualify when you file your claim.

## When Can I File My Claim?

You may file your claim anytime **after** your release from active duty. The sooner you file after your release date, the sooner your claim will be established. **Your claim cannot be accepted if you file before your separation date.**

## Where Can I File?

As an ex-service member, you may file your claim in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. Before making your choice, you should consider the following: (1) all states do not pay the same amount of benefits; (2) You must be physically in the state when you file your claim. For example, if you want an Idaho claim, you must file your claim in an Idaho Department of Labor local office; (3) Once you file a claim with a state, your entire military wages are assigned to that state; (4) You may continue to claim benefits with that state even if you move to another state.

## How Do I File?

You must file in person at a local Department of Labor office or file online at [labor.idaho.gov/iw](http://labor.idaho.gov/iw). You will need to bring Member 4 copy of your DD Form 214, driver's license and Social Security card in order for your unemployment insurance claim to be established. If you do not have a copy of your DD Form 214 the Department of Labor local office can help you get a copy from your branch of service.

## How Much Am I Entitled To?

The amount of benefits to which you may be entitled is based upon your military rank at the time of your separation from service. Each state has its own formula for calculating the weekly and total benefit amounts. The method of calculation and the benefit amounts vary from state to state. Your local Labor office will help you determine the amount.

## When Will I Start Receiving My Benefits?

Generally, the first week for which you certify on your claim is your waiting period week. Most states do not pay you for that week. After your waiting period week, you will be paid either on a weekly or biweekly basis. Your local Idaho Labor office will establish your claiming schedule.

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## Are Payments Automatic?

Unemployment insurance benefit payments are not paid automatically. To receive these benefits, you must meet certain eligibility requirements. All states require that you are physically able and available to work for each week you claim benefits. The state you file against will tell you if there are additional requirements that you must meet.

## Who Pays the Cost of My Benefits?

Your branch of service pays the entire cost of the unemployment insurance benefits paid to you. Nothing was withheld from your salary while in the service to pay for your benefits.

## Do I Qualify for Benefits if I Retire from the Military Service?

If you are receiving or will be receiving a monthly retirement pension based on your military service and your unemployment claim is also based on your military service, the pension is prorated to a weekly amount and deducted from your weekly benefit amount. If your prorated weekly pension amount is equal to or more than your weekly benefit amount, you are not eligible for benefits.

## Can You Help Me Find Work?

Idaho Department of Labor local offices do more than provide unemployment insurance benefits. The offices have a wide variety of other services available to help you find work. Some of the services provided by the Idaho Labor offices include:

- Special programs specifically designed to help veterans
- Library of labor market and job search information
- Interest and skills assessment, and career guidance
- Interview coaching
- Listings of jobs currently available
- Resume writing classes
- Assistance in finding training or education

If you were working before you entered the service, you may have reemployment rights with your pre-service employer. To find out if you have reemployment rights, contact your pre-service employer. For more information or for assistance in determining your reemployment rights call the U.S. Department of Labor/Vets at (208) 332-3570, ext. 3174.

## Where Can I Get More Information?

If you have further questions about unemployment insurance or job finding services, please call or visit your nearest Idaho Labor local office. A list of addresses and phone numbers of all local Labor offices is available on the department's home page, <http://labor.idaho.gov>. Click on "Office Directory" in the upper right corner.

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