



Unemployment Insurance (UI) Quick Facts

- The federal-state UI system was created on August 14, 1935 as a part of the Social Security Act of 1935.
- Wisconsin was the first state to enact a UI law – January 29, 1932.
- UI programs are administered in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
- Approximately \$871 billion in regular UI benefits have been paid since the program began.
- Approximately 481 million unemployed workers have been paid regular UI benefits since the program began.
- The average weekly benefit is approximately \$310.
- The average UI benefit currently replaces approximately 36% of the average weekly wage.
- \$1.60 in economic activity is generated for every \$1 spent on UI benefits.
- Approximately 129 million Americans work in jobs covered by the UI program. This is approximately 98% of all wage and salary workers.
- The UI program has infused approximately \$111.6 billion in additional benefits in response to the recession which began in December 2007.
- The Recovery Act included provisions to incentivize the modernization of states UI laws. To date, approximately \$3.1 billion has been provided to states that have expanded eligibility for their UI programs.