

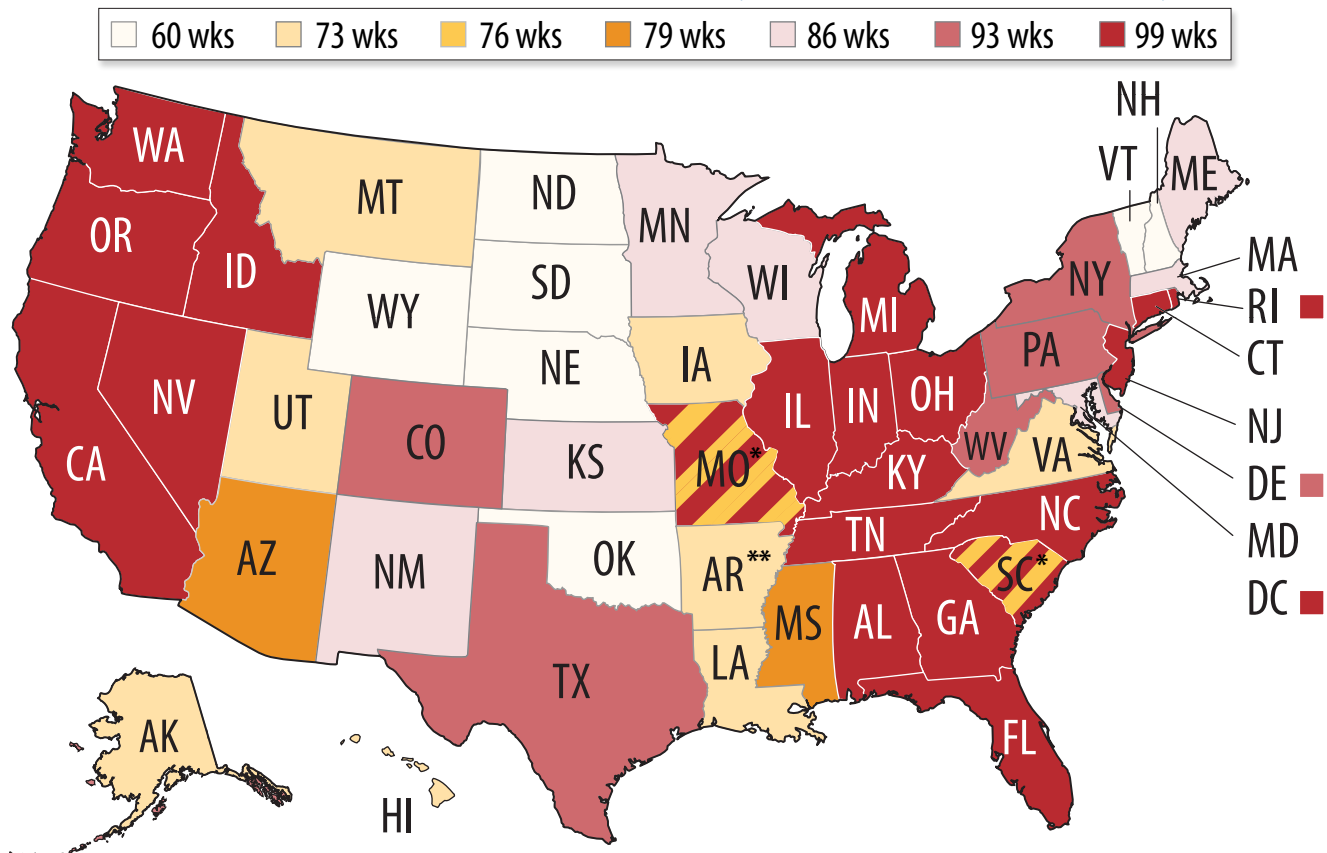
POLICY BASICS

How Many Weeks of Unemployment Compensation Are Available?

November 21, 2011

The unemployment insurance (UI) system helps many people who have lost their jobs by temporarily replacing part of their wages. (See “Policy Basics: Unemployment Insurance.”) The total number of weeks of benefits available in any particular state depends on the unemployment rate and unemployment insurance laws in the state where the person worked. The map below shows the maximum number of weeks of benefits available in each state.

Maximum Duration of Unemployment Insurance by State



Note: Map includes regular benefits, all tiers of EUC and EB. The Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico currently have 79 weeks of UI.

* Missouri and South Carolina have reduced the maximum duration of regular benefits. A maximum of 99 weeks are available in Missouri for claimants who initially filed for UI before April 13, 2011 and in South Carolina for claimants who filed before June 14, 2011. In both states only 76 weeks are available for those who file after the dates indicated.

** Arkansas has also reduced the maximum duration of regular benefits. A maximum of 73 weeks are available for claimants who initially filed before March 30, 2011; 70 weeks are available for those who file after that date.

Source: CBPP analysis of Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration data. Data from November 20, 2011.

Workers are eligible for up to 26 weeks of benefits from the regular state-funded unemployment compensation program in most states. In the current downturn, workers in any state who exhaust their regular UI benefits before they can find a job can receive up to 34 additional weeks of benefits through the temporary federal Emergency

Policy Basics is a series of brief background reports on issues related to budgets, taxes, and government assistance programs.

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Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program enacted in 2008. That number rises to 53 weeks in states with especially high unemployment rates.

Workers who exhaust their regular UI and EUC benefits can receive additional weeks of benefits through the permanent federal-state Extended Benefits (EB) program if their state's unemployment insurance laws allow it (see table below).

Additional Weeks of Benefits Under EUC and EB

Program and Unemployment Rate Threshold Additional Weeks

Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC)

less than 6 percent	34
at least 6 percent, but less than 8.5 percent*	47
at least 8.5 percent*	53

*Extended Benefits (EB)***

at least 6.5 percent, but less than 8 percent*	13
at least 8 percent	20

*States can also qualify using an alternative measure of unemployment. **Not available in all states.

Missouri and South Carolina have reduced the maximum duration of regular state benefits to 20 weeks; this change reduces the maximum duration of federal benefits available. The change affects those who claim UI after April 13, 2011 in Missouri, and those who claim UI after June 14, 2011 in South Carolina. Arkansas reduced regular state benefits to 25 weeks for those who claim after March 30, 2011.

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The table below shows how many states fall into each category shown in the map, and what combination of regular UI, EUC, and EB benefits produces the total for those states.

Maximum Total Number of Weeks Available

Maximum Duration	Unemployment Range	Reg. UI Available	EUC Available	EB Available	Number of States
60 weeks	less than 6 percent	26 wks	34 wks	none	7
70 weeks	at least 6, but less than 8.5 percent	25 wks	45 wks	none	1*
73 weeks	at least 6, but less than 8.5 percent	26 wks	47 wks	none	8*
76 weeks	at least 8.5 percent	20 wks	40 wks	16 wks	2*
79 weeks	at least 8.5 percent	26 wks	53 wks	none	4
86 weeks	at least 6.5, but less than 8 percent	26 wks	47 wks	13 wks	7
93 weeks	at least 8, but less than 8.5 percent	26 wks	47 wks	20 wks	6
99 weeks	at least 8.5 percent	26 wks	53 wks	20 wks	21*

* Missouri and South Carolina have reduced the maximum duration of regular state benefits to 20 weeks; this change reduces the maximum duration of federal benefits available. The change affects those who claim UI after April 13, 2011 in Missouri, and those who claim UI after June 14, 2011 in South Carolina. Arkansas reduced regular state benefits to 25 weeks for those who claim after March 30, 2011.

Source: US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

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