

Fisher Phillips: Updated Unemployment Guidance

Please take note of the **updated guidance** as it related to unemployment benefits. This information differs slightly from what was originally provided.

If the claimant earns an amount equal to or greater than the weekly benefit amount, they are not entitled to any benefits for that week. A claimant may earn \$50 or one half the weekly benefit amount, whichever is lower, without a reduction in weekly benefit payment. All earnings over this lesser allowed figure will be deducted from the claimant's payment dollar for dollar.

Example 1:

Employee has been determined eligible for the maximum weekly benefit of \$247.00 per week. Employee works 35 hours per week earning \$2.13 an hour as a server, plus the equivalent of \$10.00 an hour in tips.

Their gross earnings for the week are: $\$12.13 \text{ per hour} \times 30 \text{ hours} = \363.90

Since \$363.90 is more than their weekly benefit of amount of \$247.00, they will receive no unemployment benefits for this week.

Example 2:

Employee has been determined eligible for the maximum weekly benefit of \$247.00 per week.

Employee works 15 hours per week earning \$14.25 an hour as a cook.

Their gross earnings for the week are: $\$14.25 \text{ per hour} \times 15 \text{ hours} = \213.75

The first \$50 are disregarded, since this is lower than half of the claimant's weekly benefit amount:
 $\$213.75 - \$50.00 = \$163.75$

\$163.75 will count dollar for dollar against the \$247.00 weekly benefit amount.

$\$247.00 - \$163.75 = \$83.25$ weekly benefit amount for that week.

Total earnings: $\$213.75$ (wages) + $\$83.25$ (state unemployment) + $\$600.00$ (federal unemployment) = $\$897.00$

Example 3:

Employee has been determined eligible for weekly benefits in the amount of \$175.00 per week.

Employee works 20 hours per week earning \$8.00 an hour as a dishwasher.

Their gross earnings for the week are: $\$8.00 \text{ per hour} \times 20 \text{ hours} = \160.00

The first \$50 are disregarded, since this is lower than half of the claimant's weekly benefit amount:
 $\$160.00 - \$50.00 = \$110.00$

\$110.00 will count dollar for dollar against the \$175.00 weekly benefit amount.

$\$175.00 - \$110.00 = \$65.00$ weekly benefit amount for that week.

Total earnings: $\$160.00$ (wages) + $\$65.00$ (state unemployment) + $\$600.00$ (federal unemployment) = $\$825.00$