

# DOL Unemployment Insurance Average Duration Overview

## General Description

The mission of the New York State Department of Labor is to protect workers, assist the unemployed, and connect job seekers to jobs.

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division administers the State Unemployment Insurance Law, including both the unemployment insurance benefit payment program and the unemployment tax program. The Unemployment Insurance Program assists eligible workers who become unemployed, by providing weekly unemployment insurance benefit payments to partially offset the loss of income while they seek new employment. Under the program, eligible persons file an initial claim for benefits and certify weekly during their eligibility period to collect benefits. The program verifies eligibility for continuation of benefits with the claimant on a periodic basis throughout the benefit period. Unemployment Insurance is temporary income for eligible workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own.

Unemployment Insurance is temporary income:

- For eligible workers
- Who lose their jobs
- Through no fault of their own

To collect benefits, you must be ready, willing, and able to work, and actively looking for work during each week in which you are claiming benefits.

To qualify for Unemployment Insurance benefits, you must have worked and earned enough wages in covered employment. In New York State, employers pay contributions that fund Unemployment Insurance. It is not deducted from your paycheck. The Department of Labor decides if you qualify for benefits.

This dataset contains, by region and county, for each month from January 2002 to present, the number of New York State unemployment insurance duration.

Average duration is the average number of unemployment insurance weeks beneficiaries receive within their benefit year.

Average duration data include only Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) excluding Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service Members (UCX), Shared Work (SW), Self Employment Assistance Program (SEAP), 599.2 training, and federal extension programs.

## Data Collection Methodology

Data are collected administratively from the unemployment insurance program.

Average monthly duration data are sorted by the county and region.

**Statistical and Analytic Issues**

Average duration is the average number of unemployment insurance weeks beneficiaries receive within their benefit year. Those data are counted with their current geography. The beneficiaries may have moved, so average duration by the county may change slightly over time.

**Limitations of Data Use**

Average duration is rounded to the nearest tenth in weeks.