

NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa's Jobless and Injury Benefits Increase

DES MOINES – Maximum weekly benefits paid to jobless Iowans and to workers injured on the job will increase July 6, 2008, announced Iowa Workforce Development.

The rise in benefits was triggered by an increase in wages covered by unemployment insurance. The average annual wage for insured Iowa workers increased to \$35,513.19 in 2007 from the 2006 rate of \$34,094.47.

The new benefit payment schedules will apply to people who file new unemployment insurance claims after July 6, 2008 and to workers who are injured on or after July 1, 2008.

Under Iowa law, the number of people covered by unemployment insurance and their gross wages are primary elements of a formula Iowa Workforce Development uses each year to compute maximum and minimum benefit amounts paid to jobless workers. The new rates are:

Number of Dependents	Maximum Percentage of Statewide Average Weekly Wage	Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount Effective 7-6-2008	Minimum Weekly Benefit Amount Effective 7-6-2008	Current Maximum Weekly Benefit Effective 7-1-2007
0	53	\$ 361.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 347.00
1	55	\$ 375.00	\$ 56.00	\$ 360.00
2	57	\$ 389.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 373.00
3	60	\$ 409.00	\$ 62.00	\$ 393.00
4 or more	65	\$ 443.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 426.00

Iowa Workforce Development officials noted that about half of those eligible for unemployment insurance benefits have enough earnings to qualify for the maximum benefit.

Out of an estimated total labor force of 1,661,000, a total of 1,467,384 workers were covered by the Iowa unemployment insurance program in 2007.

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Beginning July 1, the workers' compensation maximum weekly benefit for temporary total disability, healing period, permanent total disability and death will rise to \$1,366. For permanent partial disability, the weekly maximum will be \$1,257.

IWD's core services include job placement services for individuals; worker recruitment assistance to employers; training services to low-income and disadvantaged lowans; worker protection and safety programs (inspections, consultation and education services); unemployment insurance programs and compensation benefits/entitlement; and technical assistance for employers. Services, in most instances, are provided at no charge or for a nominal charge to the customer.

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