



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

Maximum Weekly UI Benefit is \$598 Beginning Oct. 4; Annual Rate Revision Represents \$4 Increase

WETHERSFIELD, September 18, 2015 – The annual revision of the Unemployment Insurance benefit rate will result in claimants receiving a maximum amount of \$598 per week effective October 4, 2015, State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer said today.

The revised rate is four dollars more than the current \$594 weekly maximum rate, and will apply to claims filed for the benefit year starting on and after October 4, 2015. Those who filed a claim prior to October 4 and have been collecting unemployment benefits are unaffected by this revision. The weekly dependency allowance for each dependent of \$15 with a maximum of \$75 remains unchanged.

The annual revision of the maximum weekly unemployment benefit is based on average manufacturing wages for the year ending June 30, 2015. The increase is limited by law to \$18 per year, or 60 percent of the average, whichever is less.

For the 12 months ending August 31, 2015, regular benefits averaged \$326 per week and claimants received an average of 17.9 weeks of compensation. The prior year shows weekly benefit payments averaging \$319 for an average of 18 weeks.

State unemployment benefits are funded by an assessment paid by approximately 98,000 Connecticut employers. The assessment is based on the first \$15,000 of each worker's annual wage.

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