



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Commissioner Kurt Westby

Beginning Oct. 7, Annual Revision Increases Maximum Weekly UI Benefit for New Claims

WETHERSFIELD, September 19, 2018 – The annual revision of the Unemployment Insurance benefit rate will result in claimants receiving a maximum amount of \$631 per week effective October 7, 2018, State Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby said today.

For the 12 months ending August 31, 2018, unemployment insurance benefits averaged \$392 per week and claimants received an average of 17.3 weeks of compensation. Connecticut law provides for up to 26 weeks of unemployment insurance.

The revised rate is \$18 above the current \$613 weekly maximum rate, and will apply to claims filed for the benefit year starting on and after October 7, 2018. Individuals who filed a claim prior to this date and who have been collecting unemployment insurance benefits are unaffected by this revision. The weekly dependency allowance for each dependent of \$15 with a maximum of \$75 remains unchanged.

The maximum weekly unemployment benefit, determined annually per state statute, is based on the average wages of all Connecticut workers for the period April 2017 through March 2018. Using data from the Connecticut Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, the average wage during that time was \$1,289.98 per week.

State unemployment benefits are funded by a separate assessment paid by approximately 101,000 Connecticut employers and based on the first \$15,000 of each worker's annual wage.

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