



## **Maximum Weekly Unemployment Insurance Benefit For New Claims Is \$616 Beginning Oct. 2**

WETHERSFIELD, September 16, 2016 – The annual revision of the Unemployment Insurance benefit rate will result in claimants receiving a maximum amount of \$616 per week effective October 2, 2016, State Labor Commissioner Scott D. Jackson said today.

The revised rate is \$18 more than the current \$598 weekly maximum rate, and will apply to claims filed for the benefit year starting on and after October 2, 2016. Individuals who filed a claim prior to October 2, 2016 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 annual revision of the maximum weekly unemployment benefit is based on average manufacturing wages for the year ending June 30, 2016. The increase is limited by law to \$18 per year – or 60 percent of the average wage – whichever is less. The average manufacturing wage from July 2015 to June 2016 was \$1,062.83 per week.

For the 12 months ending August 31, 2016, unemployment insurance benefits averaged \$340 per week and claimants received an average of 17.2 weeks of compensation. The prior year shows weekly benefit payments averaging \$326 for an average of 17.9 weeks.

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

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