



## **Maximum Unemployment Insurance Benefit Increases to \$573 on October 2**

WETHERSFIELD, Sept. 26, 2011 – The maximum Unemployment Insurance benefit increases to \$573 per week from the current \$555, effective October 2, State Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall said today.

The revised rate applies to new claims filed for the benefit year starting on and after October 2, 2011. Individuals who established a new claim prior to this date and who have been collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits will be unaffected by the increase. The weekly dependency allowance for each dependent, at \$15 with a maximum of \$75, remains unchanged.

The revision of the maximum weekly unemployment benefit is based on average manufacturing wages for the year ending June 30, 2011. An increase is limited by law to \$18 a year – or 60 percent of the average wage – whichever is less. In 2010-2011, those earnings averaged a record \$995.88 weekly, up from the 2009-2010 average of \$958.52 per week.

For the 12 months ending August 31, 2011, regular jobless benefits averaged \$301 per week and claimants received an average 19.6 weeks of compensation, not including federal extensions. A year earlier, weekly benefit payments averaged \$297 for an average of 18.6 weeks.

Regular state unemployment benefits are funded by a separate assessment paid by 98,300 Connecticut employers. The tax is based on the first \$15,000 of each worker's annual wages.

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**Media Contact:** Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114  
Phone: (860) 263-6535 – Fax: (860) 263-6536 – [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol)  
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