



Quick Facts on New Mexico's Unemployment Insurance Program

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Reciprocity Rate

This is defined as the proportion of total unemployed people receiving unemployment insurance compensation. In New Mexico the reciprocity ratio was 25% for the four quarters ending in third quarter 2006. New Mexico ranks 37th, and the national UI reciprocity rate was 36%.

Average Weekly Wage

The average weekly wage for employees covered by the UI program in New Mexico was \$621, which ranked NM 44th in the US. The average weekly wage nationally was \$787.

UI Tax Rate

The tax rate on taxable wages in New Mexico was 0.9%. Nationally, the number was 2.7%.

Reserve Ratio

The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund balance for New Mexico was \$573 million in the third quarter of 2006. The reserve ratio, or the UI trust fund balance as a percent of total wages, was 2.91% in the third quarter of 2006. The US Department of Labor computes the state reserve ratio as the state's UI trust fund balance divided by the state's estimated wage level for the most recent twelve months.

High Cost Multiple

The Average High Cost Multiple in New Mexico was 2.91. Nationally, the average high cost multiple was 0.44. The average high cost multiple is the reserve ratio divided by the 'high cost rate'. The high cost rate is each state's highest ever historical ratio of benefits to wages for a 12-month period.

UI Weekly Benefit Amount

The average weekly benefit amount for UI recipients in New Mexico was \$231. Nationally the average amount was \$273.

Average Duration on UI

The average duration that a recipient received UI in New Mexico was 17.5 weeks, while the comparable national figure was 15.5 weeks. The proportion of UI recipients exhausting their benefits was 36.3% in New Mexico and 35.3% nationally.

Source: All figures and definitions are taken from the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Internet site for Unemployment Compensation data.

Prepared by: Gerry Bradley, Research Director, New Mexico Voices for Children