



**DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE
UI POLICY & PERFORMANCE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Date: October 2, 2015

Reference No.: UIPP 2015.09

TO: UI Senior Staff Directors, Career Center Field Operations Director, UITCC Directors, UITCC Managers, Area Directors, Walk-In Center Managers, and UI Staff

FROM: Jennifer Lavin, Director, UI Policy & Performance

SUBJECT: New Maximum UI Weekly Benefit Amount

The DUA Research Department has provided notification that the maximum UI weekly benefit amount to be paid to any individual whose benefit year commences on or after the first Sunday in October 2015 and prior to the first Sunday in October 2016 will be \$722.00. This rate will become effective for new benefit years beginning Sunday, October 4, 2015. This new maximum benefit amount does not include any dependency allowance payable to the claimant. The new rate was calculated in accordance with Section 29 of Chapter 151A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

This new maximum rate represents a \$24.00 increase from the existing maximum amount of \$698.00. Call Center agents may encounter questions as to how the amount is calculated. Agents should answer these questions by providing the below information.

The rate is based on the following calculations:

- Average monthly employment (# of jobs) for the 12 months ending March 2015 (UI Contributory only): = 2,636,501
- UI Contributory payroll for the 12 months ending March 2015: \$172,259,439,650
- Average annual wage: \$65,336.38
- Average weekly wage: \$ 1,256.47
- Maximum weekly benefit amount = average weekly wage x .575 (then rounded to the next lowest dollar) \$722.47 = \$722.00

Note: The rate increase may result in requests for withdrawal of claims from claimants who filed their claims prior to October 4, 2015, in an attempt to take advantage of the new benefit amount. Withdrawal of claims may **not** be approved for this purpose. All current procedures regarding withdrawal requests must be followed.

Please contact the UI Policy and Performance Department with any questions about the new maximum benefit amount at 617-626-6422.