

FAQ – Reporting Earnings and Restarting Claim After High Earnings

Question: Do I have to report part-time work or self-employment?

Yes. If you are filing for unemployment benefits and performing some work during any week you are filing for, you must report those earnings, whether earned in regular employment, self-employment, in New Hampshire or any other state.

Question: What kind of earnings do I have to report? Gross or Net? What about tips?

You must report gross earnings – the total amount prior to any deductions for tax or child support.

You must report any tips, gratuities or commissions that you receive in addition to your hourly wages.

You must report any earnings of \$1.00 (one dollar) or more.

Question: When do I report my earnings? When I work? Or when I get paid?

You must report these earnings for the week in which they were earned, not the week in which they were paid.

Example:

Worked on Monday 11/5 and Wednesday 11/7. Worked total of 10 hours at \$12.00 per hour.

Earned \$120.00. Received paycheck for those earnings on Friday 11/23/2012.

It is not correct to report these earnings when filing for week ending 11/24/2012.

\$120.00 must be reported as earnings for week ending 11/10/2012, when you file the continued claim for that week. You would be filing for that week between 11/11 and 11/17/2012.

Question: How do these earnings affect my benefits?

Earnings will reduce your benefits for the week dollar for dollar if they exceed 30% of your weekly benefit amount.

Example:

Weekly benefit amount is \$206. $\$206 \times 30\% = \62 . Earned \$120.

$\$120 - \$62 = \$58$ $\$206 - \$58 = \$148$ You would receive \$148 in benefits this week.

Question: What is DOBA? What is High Earnings?

DOBA stands for Deductions Over Benefit Amount, or High Earnings. If you earn more than 130% of your weekly benefit amount, you will not be eligible for benefits for that week. Your earnings were too high to allow benefits to be paid.

Example:

Weekly benefit amount is \$206. $\$206 \times 30\% = \62 $\$206 + \$62 = \$268$ Earned \$300.

Since \$300 is higher than \$268, you would not be eligible for benefits this week.

IMPORTANT: When you are not eligible due to high earnings (DOBA), or you skip filing a continued claim for a week because you know you have high earnings, you must reopen your claim.

Question: When should I reopen my claim?

Your claim is effective the calendar week in which you file it. You must restart your claim during the week in which you again expect to earn less than 130% of your weekly benefit amount.

This may mean that you must reopen your claim the very same week you file your continued claim and report earnings.

Your claim can be reopened any day of the week and can be filed as late as Saturday to be effective the prior Sunday.

Example:

You work and earn more than 130% of your week benefit amount during week ending 11/3/2012.

Your continued claim for week ending 11/3/2012 must be filed between 11/4 and 11/10/2012.

On Sunday, 11/4, you file for week ending 11/3/2012 and report \$500.00 in earnings, which is more than 130% of your weekly benefit amount. This will process overnight and result in DOBA, or high earnings, which will shut down your claim.

You will not be able to simply file a continued claim for week ending 11/10/2012 between 11/11 and 11/17/2012.

You must reopen your claim between 11/4 and 11/10 in order to be able to file a continued claim for week ending 11/10/2012 between 11/11 and 11/17/2012. You may use the option to Reopen Claim – Restart your claim for Benefits effective with the week beginning SUNDAY of the current week on your Main Menu.

Question: What if I don't reopen my claim on time? What about the week or weeks I missed?

Your claim is effective the calendar week in which you file it. Going backwards is not allowed by law, except in very few and rare circumstances. For example, if someone filed in Massachusetts by mistake and should have filed in New Hampshire, New Hampshire would go backwards to include the weeks already filed in Massachusetts, even though the claim in New Hampshire was opened later.