



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

Date: December 7, 2015

Reference No.: UIPP 2015.11

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 Minimum Base Period Wage Requirement for Claims

For claims effective on and after Sunday, January 3, 2016, the new minimum base period wage requirement for Unemployment Insurance eligibility is \$3,900. The current minimum base period wage requirement is \$3,500. Chapter 151A, §24(a) requires the minimum base period wage requirement for establishing an unemployment insurance claim to be increased annually proportionate to any increases which have occurred in the state minimum wage during the previous calendar year and rounded down to the nearest hundred dollars.

On January 1, 2015, the Massachusetts minimum wage was increased from \$8.00 to \$9.00 per hour. The calculations for this increase are displayed below.

State minimum wage in effect prior to 01/01/2015:	\$8.00 per hour
State minimum wage effective 01/01/2015:	\$9.00 per hour
Increase:	\$1.00 per hour or 12.5%
Minimum wage requirement for CY 2015:	\$3500.
Proportional increase ($\$3500 \times 1.125$):	\$3920.
Minimum wage requirement effective 01/4/2016:	\$3900. (rounded down to nearest hundred dollars)

Please contact the UI Policy and Performance Department with any questions about the new minimum base period wage requirement for unemployment insurance claims at 617-626-6422.