Arizona Unemployment Insurance Tax Newsletter
Fourth Quarter 2021
Virtual Services Available for Employers

For your convenience, the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Tax office has virtual office services available to meet you where you are.

Contact the following UI Tax departments by phone or email for virtual assistance:

- Employer Accounting: (602) 771-6601 or uitaccounting@azdes.gov
- Collections: (602) 771-6604 or uitcollections@azdes.gov
- Employer Registration: (602) 771-6602 or uitstatus@azdes.gov
- Experience Rating: (602) 771-6603 or uitexperience@azdes.gov
- Appeals: (602) 771-6652
- Client Advocate: uitadvocate@azdes.gov

Latest News
Have you ever wondered how you can lower your UI Tax Rate?

*Consider making a Voluntary Payment!*

The 2022 annual Tax Rate Notices were mailed on December 30, 2021. Along with the factors used to compute your UI rate is the amount you can pay to “buy down” your tax rate. Before making the voluntary payment, you should determine if there will be any savings because once submitted, the voluntary payment is nonrefundable. Included with the rate notice is a worksheet to help you to determine your potential savings. It is important to read the rate notice carefully and follow the instructions on the worksheet to determine whether or not making a voluntary payment would be beneficial. **Voluntary payments are used to reduce the UI rate only and are not in lieu of any other taxes due.** Please note that this program is not available to all employers. If you are assigned the "New Employer" rate of 2.00%, or if your rate is at the lowest rate possible, you do not meet the requirements and may not make a voluntary payment.

Voluntary payments must be postmarked or paid online no later than February 28, 2022. You can make the voluntary payment online at [uitws.azdes.gov](http://uitws.azdes.gov) beginning January 1, 2022.
Pay-by-Phone Option Coming Soon

In early 2022, the Arizona UI Tax program will make it easier for you to make your Quarterly Tax payments with the ability to pay by phone using a credit or debit card on our Interactive Voice Response System. More information will be available soon.
Returning to Work

Guidance for employers and employees

You may report individuals to DES who have refused an offer of work or have not returned to work when work is available through the DES fraud referral portal. Select “I would like to report an individual that I suspect of fraud,” and complete the form including the “Failure to Accept Suitable Work for Employers” section. DES will review the information to determine the individual’s eligibility for unemployment benefits.

As a reminder, individuals who refuse an offer of suitable work or refuse to return to suitable work without good cause are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits. A general fear of exposure to COVID-19 does not constitute good cause under state or federal law.

Learn more about DES’ guidance for returning to work.
How do I close my business or report a change in my mailing address?

If you want to close your E-SIDES account or need to report a change in your company’s ownership, mailing address, or email address, please complete a "Report of Changes" form (UC-514) that can be found on the DES UI Tax website. Complete and return the form by email to UITStatus@azdes.gov or by fax to 602-532-5549.
Unemployment Insurance Fraud Information for Employers

Throughout the pandemic, unemployment benefit programs across the country have been targeted by criminals at home and abroad seeking to defraud American taxpayers. As all federal pandemic unemployment programs ended in early September 2021, the Department has assessed to what degree its programs were targeted by cybercriminals and the efficacy of its early intervention. As Arizona was one of the first states to deploy program integrity measures, the Department estimates it prevented more than $75 billion in unemployment benefit fraud.

There has not been a breach of information stored by the DES, however, criminals are obtaining individuals’ personal information using phishing scams, previous corporate data breaches, and other tactics and using this stolen information to file for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.

Use the Reporting Suspected Unemployment Fraud Toolkit and learn how to protect your business and employees from UI fraud.

Individuals who suspect UI fraud or believe they may have been a victim of identity theft and had their information used to file a fraudulent claim should file a report with DES at https://fraudreferralexternal.azdes.gov/.
Registered Apprenticeship Program

As Arizona emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, ARIZONA@WORK wants to help businesses return stronger through Registered Apprenticeship (RA) programs. Registered apprenticeships are available in almost any occupation including Information Technology (IT), Cyber Security, Construction, Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Maintenance, Utilities and more.

The Arizona Apprenticeship Office can help you explore your apprenticeship program options and provide you with the resources to help you design and build your program.

Contact us today to:

- Receive information on apprenticeship and the opportunities that exist.
- Find an apprenticeship program option that meets the unique needs of your business.
- Connect with apprenticeship experts and partners that can provide services to help build your program.

A registered apprenticeship program will help your business to:

- Recruit and develop a diverse and highly skilled workforce
- Instill your company’s culture
- Improve productivity, profitability, and your bottom line
- Reduce turnover, improve loyalty, and retain top talent
- Demonstrate investment in your community

Learn about Creating a Registered Apprenticeship Program for your Company
Business Services

Reaching the top takes the top talent. ARIZONA@WORK helps employers throughout the state to meet their recruitment and training needs by offering no-cost services.

Learn more.
On-The-Job Training

On-the-Job Training is a structured work-based program developed directly with employers to teach the skills required for a particular occupation. This approach combines instruction with work experience in the target occupation. Eligible businesses can receive up to 50% in wage reimbursements for selected positions, based on certain criteria. To learn more about On-the-Job Training, please email us at dersazemployer@azdes.gov.
Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is designed to help individuals move from economic dependency into self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers. Employers who hire workers from targeted demographics can reduce their income tax liability through earned tax credits. Learn more about WOTC.

Labor Market Information

We can help you make sense of Arizona’s changing labor landscape with data that brings the economic and occupational picture into focus, including:

- Local and national labor market, employment and economic information
- Population and demographics statistics
- Industry trends and occupational outlook surveys
- Labor Market area comparisons
- Local commute patterns

To learn more about Arizona’s Labor Market Information, please visit our website.
Shared Work Program

The Shared Work Program provides an alternative for employers faced with a reduction in force which allows them to divide available work or hours among affected employees in lieu of a layoff. The program allows the employees to receive a portion of UI benefits while working reduced hours. Learn More About Arizona’s Shared Work Program.

Tax and Wage Reports

Tax and Wage Reports (UC-018) must be filed with the Department by the end of the month following the end of the quarter.

- 1st Quarter (January - March) Due by 4/30
- 2nd Quarter (April - June) Due by 7/31
- 3rd Quarter (July - September) Due by 10/31
- 4th Quarter (October- December) Due 1/31

Wage Reporting

All wages paid must be reported for the quarter in which they were paid.

- Taxable Wages = $7,000 per employee per calendar year
- Gross Wages = Total wages paid to each employee
- Excess Wages = Gross Wages – Taxable Wages
Online Reporting

File your Quarterly Tax and Wage Report Online

The online Tax and Wage System (TWS) allows employers with up to 34,000 employees to:

- File a Quarterly Tax and Wage Report
- Make a Payment (ACH Debit)
- Report Address and Business Changes
- View / Print copies of Quarterly Filings previously filed via the internet

AZURE is a bulk file upload server to server process, using a Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).

Electronically transmit up to 5,000 Tax and Wage Reports per file
Make a Payment (ACH Credit)
Receive Electronic Acknowledgment
The Internet Response Module for Employers (IRME) allows employers to respond to Wage Audit Notices electronically. Prompt response to these notices reduces improper payments, decreasing charges to your UI account to stabilize future tax rates.

WageAuditUnit@azdes.gov or (602) 364-4300

SIDES E-Response

The UI State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) is a free service that employers can use to respond electronically to Notice to Employer (form UB-110) requests for separation information regarding former employees. Use SIDES E-Response to reduce mailing costs, increase response timeliness, decrease overpayments and provide accurate and complete information initially to reduce requests for additional information.

SIDES E-Response - UIAClientAdvocate@azdes.gov
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are always striving to improve our service and relationships with employers. Please let us know how we’re doing by completing our survey by clicking on the button below. http://www.azdes.gov/uitaxsurvey

STAY CONNECTED!

- DES Facebook
- DES Twitter

For general UI Tax Questions and Information, please visit www.azuitax.gov or call (602) 771-6606

For general UI Benefits Questions and Information, please visit www.azui.com or call (602) 364-2722 or (877) 600-2722