

Unemployment and social benefits

Entitlement to unemployment benefit I from the Employment Agency

The German state supports people who are unable to earn their own living, or are only partially able to do so.

However, in principle, everyone should be able to support themselves by working.

Unemployment benefit I is paid to anyone who loses their job. However, the person concerned must have worked in Germany for at least 12 months in the last 30 months. There are other conditions under certain circumstances.

The [Federal Employment Agency](#) decides whether a person receives unemployment benefit.

The following steps must be observed:

1. register as a jobseeker

- Who has been made redundant
- who has resigned and has no new job in prospect
- or whose temporary employment contract is about to end,

must register as a jobseeker immediately, at the latest 3 months before the end of the employment relationship.

The [Employment Agency](#) provides support in the search for new employment. Together with those affected, it will also determine whether they are entitled to financial support.

There are different ways to register as a jobseeker:

- On site at the [employment agency](#)
- by telephone at ☎ [0800/4555500](tel:08004555500) (toll-free)
- Online at 🌐 <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/>

2. register as unemployed in person

Those affected must register as unemployed **in person** at their local [employment agency](#) on the first day without work at the latest. This is a prerequisite for receiving unemployment benefit.

3. Fill in the application for unemployment benefit

Unemployment benefit can be applied for online. Alternatively, application forms can be collected in person from the Employment Agency to submit the application in writing.

🌐 Information on registering as unemployed can be found [here](#).