
Unemployment and job search

You are unemployed if:

- you do not have a job,
- are actively looking for work subject to social insurance contributions
- and have registered as unemployed with the employment agency or job centre.

If your training or employment relationship ends, you are obliged to register as a jobseeker at least three months before your employment ends.

The purpose of work is to secure your livelihood. It is therefore a basic principle that everyone must earn their own living through work. As Germany is a welfare state, it helps people who are unable to earn their own living or can only do so in part.




Unemployment benefit

You receive unemployment benefit if you lose your job. You must have worked in Germany for at least 12 months in the last 30 months. There are other conditions under certain circumstances. You apply for unemployment benefit at the [Employment Agency](#).

Register as a jobseeker


You have been made redundant, you have given notice or your temporary employment contract is coming to an end. The Employment Agency will support you in your search for new employment. They will also work with you to determine whether you are entitled to financial support. It is important that you register as a jobseeker as soon as possible. Register as a jobseeker at least 3 months before the end of your employment relationship. If you only find out later, register as a jobseeker no later than 3 days later.

You can do this in various ways:

- On site at your local employment agency. You can find the relevant office of the employment agency [at](#)  [here](#). Simply enter the postcode of your place of residence and you will be directed to the relevant office.
- By telephone at  [+49 \(0\) 8004555500](tel:+4908004555500) (free of charge)
- online at  <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/>

You must register as unemployed in person at your local employment agency on the first day without work at the latest. This is the prerequisite for receiving unemployment benefit.

Fill in the application form for unemployment benefit

You can apply for unemployment benefit [online](#) at . Alternatively, you can obtain an application form from your local employment agency to submit the application in writing.

Job centre

The [job centre](#) is your contact if you do not yet have a job. It will place you in jobs and training programmes.

Search for vacancies online and find out more

You can also find out about vacancies and training places online yourself. Companies looking for labour publish their job advertisements on the job exchanges.

Below are the well-known job exchanges JOBBÖRSE:

- Free app from the Federal Employment Agency for  [Android](#) and [iPhone](#)
-  [job exchange for refugees](#)
-  [Make training clear](#)
-  [Information for asylum seekers, job seekers and employers](#)
-  [Network Integration through Qualification \(IQ\)](#)
-  [jobs4refugees](#)
-  ["Science4Refugees"](#)
-  [Apprenticeship exchange of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce \(IHK\)](#)
-  ["Apprenticeship radar" of the Chamber of Crafts \(HWK\)](#)
-  [Apprenticeships in the agricultural sector - Chamber of Agriculture](#) (LKSH)