

Unemployment

You are unemployed if you do not earn any money through work. As Germany is a welfare state, it helps people who cannot or can only partially support themselves.

In principle, however, everyone should earn their own living through work.

The [Federal Employment Agency](#) or the [Job Centre](#) decides whether you receive unemployment benefit.

Unemployment benefit (Arbeitslosengeld)

You will receive unemployment benefit if you lose your job that is subject to social insurance contributions. To do so, you must have worked in Germany for at least 12 months in the last 30 months and be subject to social insurance contributions. There are other conditions under certain circumstances.

The amount of unemployment benefit is generally 60% (67% if you have children) of your average net income over the last 12 months. You must use every opportunity to find a job.

If you lose your job, you must register as a jobseeker at least three months in advance. If you only find out later that you have been made redundant, you must register no later than three days afterwards. This is important in case you have to apply for unemployment benefit afterwards. If you have not found a new job, register as unemployed - at the latest on the first day of unemployment.

What is the citizen's allowance (Bürgergeld)?


Citizen's income is intended to help people who are able to work and entitled to benefits so that they have enough money to live on.

Who receives citizen's allowance?

Citizens' income is paid to anyone who is able to work and cannot pay for their own living expenses. Even if other benefits are not sufficient. People who are not able to work and who live together with people entitled to citizen's allowance also receive citizen's allowance. The job centre can advise you on this.

Who does not receive citizen's allowance?

Holders of a residence permit or tolerated stay can receive benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act if they are in need. The [social welfare office](#) in your local authority is responsible for this.

💡 If you have lost your job or have been made redundant without cause or have not received your salary, you can seek advice from  [VSB gGmbH](#).