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Improvement in Wisconsin's Unemployment Rate Brings Change to Federal Extended Benefits Program Eligibility

DWD has notified claimants that maximum eligibility period in Wisconsin will be 73 weeks

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) has notified 7,761 individuals collecting Unemployment Insurance under the federal Extended Benefits (EB) program that the program will be ending in Wisconsin after April 7, 2012, due to the continued improvement in the state's unemployment rate.

The state's three-month average seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 7.0 percent in February 2012, meaning the state of Wisconsin no longer meets the federally required threshold for the 13-week EB program. The last payable week of EB in Wisconsin is the week ending April 7, 2012. After that, the maximum number of weeks a claimant can collect UI benefits in Wisconsin will be 73 weeks instead of 86 weeks.

The federal government formally notified DWD of the change on March 14, 2012, and DWD updated its website and distributed special written notifications to affected UI claimants within the following three to four business days. DWD also notified all other UI claimants of the change and has encouraged claimants to visit the UI website at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov> or call 1-800-UC CLAIM with questions.

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