

Unemployed jobseeker rights and obligations

Persons registering as an unemployed jobseeker are entitled to:

- ▶ Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) employment services and statutory unemployment security
- ▶ come up with an employment plan together with an employment services adviser
- ▶ make an activation or integration plan together with an employment services adviser, provided that they meet the specified requirements.

Persons receiving unemployment benefits may, for example:

- ▶ study part-time
- ▶ participate in volunteer work or work parties
- ▶ engage in a part-time business enterprise or work on a part-time basis.
- ▶ start a business enterprise. The assessment of whether a jobseeker's business enterprise is full-time or part-time will not take place in the first four months since the start of the business enterprise.

Jobseekers receiving or applying for an unemployment benefit are obligated to

- ▶ seek full-time employment and be available on the job market
- ▶ accept any offers of employment and education/training
- ▶ participate in services promoting employment and other TE Office services
- ▶ participate in periodic interviews at three month intervals
- ▶ participate in the drafting and examination of an employment plan or activation/integration plan
- ▶ participate in the implementation of an employment plan or activation/integration plan
- ▶ remain available to the TE Office and stay active in their job search.



The Unemployment security contact number is +358 295 020 701

For additional information, please visit a TE Office or www.te-services.fi

Different forms of unemployment security

Unemployment benefits are paid to unemployed jobseekers to ensure income for the time during which they are looking for work or participating in services that promote employment. The unemployment benefits include an earnings-related allowance, a basic daily allowance and labour market support.

The TE Office examines the labour market policy conditions for receiving unemployment benefits and issues a policy statement to the party paying the benefit. The payer, Kela or an unemployment fund will examine the other prerequisites for receiving benefits.

Earnings-related allowance

The requirement for receiving an earnings-related allowance is meeting the conditions for being employed as a wage-earner or entrepreneur as well as being the member of an unemployment fund for an adequate length of time. This benefit is granted and paid by the unemployment fund of the applicant. The earnings-related allowance is comprised of a basic component and an earnings-related component. The earnings-related component is based on the earned income of the applicant.

Basic daily allowance

A basic daily allowance is paid to persons who meet the conditions for wage-earner or entrepreneur, but who are not a member of any unemployment fund or who have not fulfilled the "time employed" condition during their membership. This benefit is granted and paid by Kela.

Labour market support

Receiving labour market support does not require previous employment or membership in an unemployment fund. Labour market support is paid to unemployed persons who do not fulfil the time employed condition and, as a result, are not eligible for a daily allowance and also to persons whose entitlement to an unemployment allowance has expired upon reaching the end of the maximum payment period. This benefit is granted and paid by Kela.

Since the labour market support is needs-based, any personal income earned will reduce the amount of support granted. The amount of support paid to jobseekers living with their parents will also be reduced according to the parents' income.

Payment of unemployment benefits

Unemployment benefits are paid to unemployed jobseekers between the ages of 17 and 64. Persons 65 years of age or older are, in certain situations, also eligible to receive unemployment benefits. The benefits are payable for five days a week.



Further information:
www.te-services.fi,
www.kela.fi, www.tyj.fi
[stm.fi/en/income-security/
unemployment](http://stm.fi/en/income-security/unemployment)

Job search period of validity

A requirement for receiving unemployment benefits is that the individual has registered with a TE Office as a full-time jobseeker. The job search period enters into effect beginning on the day the individual has registered with a TE Office as a jobseeker. The main way to register as a jobseeker is to register online.



Register as a jobseeker online.

The job search must also be kept valid when participating in services that promote employment. To keep the job search valid requires that the jobseeker deals with the TE Office in the agreed manner and keeping to the agreed times. Depending on what has been agreed, the responsibility for the following contact will be either the TE Office or the jobseeker.

Unemployment security is remunerative

In order to receive unemployment security, the jobseeker must actively seek employment and education/training. Furthermore, they must apply for and participate in services and measures that promote employment.

If, for no valid reason, the applicant:

- ▶ refuses a job assigned by a TE Office or one offered by an employer
- ▶ refuses to participate in labour market training
- ▶ quits/is fired from a job or labour market training, or
- ▶ through their own actions, fails to enter into an employment agreement or gain admittance to education/training,

the result may be a 30-, 60- or 90-day suspension period without benefits or the temporary discontinuation of unemployment benefits (obligation to work).



Actively seek employment or education/training.

Employment plans are binding

In either an employment plan or an equivalent plan (activation or integration plan), the TE Office and jobseeker agree on the jobseeker's employment objectives as well as the services and measures that will support the jobseeker's active search for employment and promote their placement in a job or education/training programme. Job-search coaching, work trials and other services that promote employment will also be agreed upon in the plan.

Failure to attend the meeting for drafting and checking the employment plan or equivalent plan will result in a 15-day or longer suspension of benefits. This suspension will remain in effect until the plan has been drafted or checked, unless the delay is the fault of the TE Office.

Failure to comply with the employment plan can lead to a loss of unemployment security either for a specified period of time or indefinitely.



The jobseeker must always provide advance notice if they will be unable to attend the meeting for drafting and checking the employment plan or equivalent plan.

Services promoting employment

If a service that promotes employment is specified in the employment plan or equivalent plan, the jobseeker may be eligible for an earnings-related or basic daily allowance, or for increased labour market support for the duration of some services that promote employment. In addition to this, an expense allowance may be paid for the duration of most services that promote employment.

Services promoting employment

- ▶ labour market training
- ▶ independent study by the jobseeker, which is supported by unemployment benefits
- ▶ job-search coaching, career coaching, work trials
- ▶ trials
- ▶ independent study by an immigrant, which is supported by an unemployment benefit
- ▶ rehabilitative work.

More information: te-services.fi > **For job-seekers** > **If you become unemployed** > **Unemployment security.**

Persons under 25 years of age with no vocational training

A person under 25 years of age who is receiving unemployment benefits and possesses no vocational training must apply for vocational training leading to a vocational qualification every spring. They must apply for at least two different study placements.

If the person fails to apply for training without a valid reason, they will temporarily forfeit their entitlement to unemployment benefits. Refusing to participate in or quitting training without a valid reason, or being dismissed from the training due to one's own actions, will result in the temporary loss of unemployment benefits.

If the person participates in a service that promotes employment (such as a work trial), they will be paid unemployment benefits during that time, even if they are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

Labour market support waiting period

During the waiting period for labour market support (21 weeks), the person is not entitled to receive labour market support during unemployment.

If the person participates in a service that promotes employment (such as a work trial), they will receive labour market support during that time.

The waiting period is defined by Kela.

Mobility subsidy

The party responsible for the payment of unemployment benefits may award a mobility aid to a person, who is entitled to unemployment subsidy to help cover costs an individual may incur due to accepting a job. The subsidy is equal to a basic unemployment allowance, and it is graded according to the duration of employment.

Entrepreneur unemployment benefits

The TE Office examines whether a person can be considered an entrepreneur in the unemployment security system. The decision made does not necessarily correspond with the decisions made by, for example, the Tax Administration. The following are taken into consideration in assessing whether a person is considered an entrepreneur

- ▶ YEL (Self-Employed Persons' Pension Act) or MYEL (Farmers' Pension Act) pensions
- ▶ employment in a company or as a private entrepreneur
- ▶ the person's own shareholding and those of family members
- ▶ the person's position in a company.

The entrepreneur is not entitled to unemployment benefits if they are working on a full-time basis in a company. The TE Office decides whether or not they can be considered full-time employees. An individual, who employs themselves as a part-time entrepreneur may be entitled to an adjusted unemployment benefit.

If the business enterprise is begun during unemployment, the assessment of whether the business enterprise is full-time or part-time will not take place in the first four months since the start of the business enterprise. An unemployed jobseeker will receive unemployment benefits or an adjusted unemployment benefit during this time. More information:

te-services.fi > For jobseekers > If you become unemployed > Unemployment security > The entrepreneur and unemployment security.



The TE Office must always be notified of studies and entrepreneurial activities that last more than 2 weeks.

Unemployment security for students

Full-time students are not eligible for unemployment benefits. The TE Office determines whether a person can be considered a full-time student.

Support for independent study

Based on the labour policy statement issued by the TE Office, unemployment benefits can be used by the jobseeker to support independent study.

The requirements for using unemployment benefits to support independent study include the following:

- ▶ supporting the studies will significantly improve the jobseeker's ability to gain employment
- ▶ the studies are full-time
- ▶ support for the studies is specified in the employment plan or equivalent plan
- ▶ the jobseeker is at least 25 years of age.

Impact of work disability or illness on unemployment security

A person who has a work disability may register as a jobseeker with the TE Office.

If the person receives a daily sickness allowance, or if any other compensation is paid based on the work disability, they are usually ineligible for unemployment benefits.

Kela or the unemployment fund in question must always be notified of any benefits paid based on work disability, even if they are only partial benefits. Kela or the unemployment fund must also be notified of any sick leaves taken or hospital care received. The person must also notify the TE Office of sick leaves or hospital care received, if they are taking part in a service that promotes employment and the duration of the sick leave or hospital care is more than five days.

Always keep the following in mind concerning unemployment security

Travelling abroad while unemployed

Foreign travel does not preclude a person from receiving unemployment benefits. However, the jobseeker must always ensure that the TE Office can reach them, they must participate in the agreed upon services and they must be able to immediately accept any employment that is offered to them.

Eligibility for unemployment benefits may require that the person remain a resident in Finland. The payer of the unemployment benefits is responsible for making this determination.

Job-seeking in the EU/EEA

Persons receiving an earnings-related or basic daily allowance may seek employment for three months in another EU/EEA country without forfeiting their Finnish daily allowance. Prior to this, they must be an unemployed jobseeker for no less than four weeks. The TE Office and Kela or the unemployment fund must be notified of the departure because certain documents must be signed before leaving Finland so that the unemployment benefits can be collected. Once in the destination country, the person must register as a jobseeker with the local employment office.

Appeals in unemployment security matters

Labour policy statements issued by the TE Office may not be appealed. However, the decisions made in labour policy statements issued by Kela or the unemployment fund may be appealed. The decision is made after the jobseeker has applied for unemployment benefits.

Appeals may be brought before the The Social Security Appeal Board, and appeals on the Board's decision are handled by the Insurance Court.

The TE Office or national helpline should be contacted for general advice on unemployment security matters.

www.ely-centre.fi

Telephone Service for customers

Service in English	0295 020 713
Työttömyysturvaneuvonta	0295 020 701
Service på svenska	0295 025 510
Service in Russian Русскоязычная консультационная служба	0295 020 715

Calls will be charged based on
the client's own operator charges.

Social Insurance Institution of Finland
www.kela.fi

Federation of Unemployment
Funds in Finland
www.tyj.fi

te-services.fi

TE02 eng 1.2020

