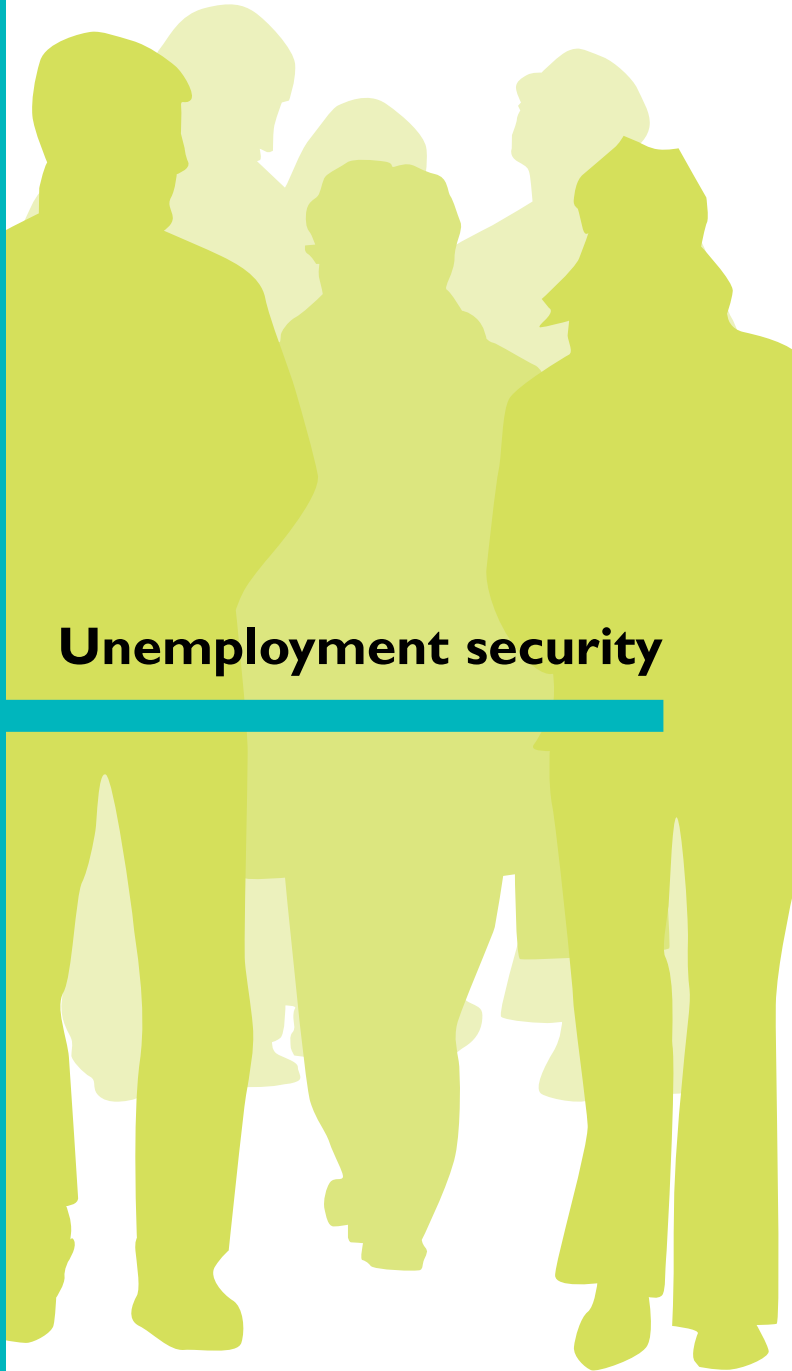


FOR JOBSEEKERS



Unemployment security

www.mol.fi

The rights and obligations of unemployed jobseekers

A person registered as an unemployed jobseeker is entitled to

- Employment services provided by an Employment and Economic Development Office (TE Office) and unemployment security, on the conditions laid down by law
- An employment plan drawn up jointly with a TE Office
- An activation or integration plan drawn up jointly with a TE Office, provided that he or she meets the required conditions

A person receiving unemployment benefits can, among other things,

- Study on a part-time basis
- Participate in voluntary or neighbourly work
- Travel abroad occasionally, for short periods of time
- Be engaged in part-time entrepreneurship or have a part-time job

A jobseeker receiving or applying for unemployment benefits is obliged to

- Seek full-time employment and be available for the labour market
- Accept any job or training offered
- Participate in services promoting employment and other services provided by the TE Office
- Attend job-seeking interviews when invited by the TE Office
- Participate in drawing up and checking an employment plan or an activation or integration plan
- Participate in the implementation of an employment plan or an activation or integration plan
- Be reachable by the TE Office and to keep the job search valid

Further information is available at the TE Office, or online at www.mol.fi

**Unemployment security contact number
+358 10 19 4911 (from Finland 010 19 4911)**

Various forms of unemployment security

Unemployment benefit is paid to ensure the livelihood of an unemployed jobseeker, while he or she is looking for a new job or participating in services that promote employment. Unemployment benefits include the earnings-related allowance, basic daily allowance and labour market support.

The TE Office examines the employment policy preconditions for receiving unemployment benefit, and issues a statement on this to the payer of the benefit. The payer, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) or an unemployment fund will examine other preconditions for receiving the benefit.

Earnings-related daily allowance

A precondition for receiving earnings-related daily allowance is that the employee or entrepreneur meets the 'time at work' condition and is a member of an unemployment fund for a sufficient period of time. The benefit is granted and paid by the unemployment fund to which the applicant belongs. Earnings-related allowance consists of a basic and an earnings-related component. The earnings-related component is determined on the basis of the applicant's established daily pay.

Basic daily allowance

The basic daily allowance is paid to a person who meets the 'time at work' condition for employees or entrepreneurs but is not a member of any unemployment fund, or has not met the 'time at work' condition during the period of membership. This benefit is granted and paid by Kela.

Labour market support

Earlier work attendance or membership of an unemployment fund is not required for eligibility for labour market support. Labour market support is paid to unemployed jobseekers who do not meet the 'time at work' condition and who are therefore not entitled to a daily allowance, as well as persons whose right to daily unemployment allowance has terminated after the maximum period of payment has expired. This benefit is granted and paid by Kela.

Labour market support is subject to means testing, which means that the applicant's own income and that of a spouse or partner, or parents, will reduce the support amount.

Payment of unemployment security

Unemployed jobseekers aged 17–64 receive unemployment security. In certain cases, persons who have turned 65 may also be entitled to unemployment benefits. Benefits are payable for five days a week.


Further information:

www.mol.fi, www.kela.fi, www.tyj.fi

Validity of job search

An absolute precondition for receiving daily unemployment allowance and labour market support, is that the person concerned is registered as a full-time jobseeker with a TE Office.

The job search becomes valid from the date the person has registered as a jobseeker with a TE Office. In the first instance, you should register as a jobseeker via the electronic web service.



Register as
a jobseeker
on-line.

The job search must be kept in force throughout the period of unemployment, even during participation services that promote employment. The TE Office will decide on a deadline for the renewal of a jobseeker's job application and whether he or she is required to visit the TE Office in person.

Unemployment security is remunerative

In order to receive unemployment security, the applicant must be actively seeking employment or training. Furthermore, he or she must, when necessary, apply for and take part in services and measures promoting re-employment.

If, without a valid reason, the applicant

- Refuses to accept a job assigned by the TE Office or offered by an employer, or refuses to participate in labour market training
 - Resigns/is dismissed from work or labour market training or
 - Through his or her own actions, is the cause of no employment contract being made or he or she not being selected for training,
- the consequence may be a 30-, 60- or 90-day waiting period without benefits, or a temporary discontinuation of the unemployment benefits (obligation to work).

Employment plans are binding

In the employment plan or another plan replacing it (activation and integration plan), the TE Office and jobseeker jointly agree on the applicant's employment goals, as well as on services and measures in support of the jobseeker's active job search, which promote re-employment or training. The plan includes, for example, plans for traineeships, preparatory training for working life, work trials and other services promoting re-employment.

If the jobseeker fails to arrive at a meeting for drawing up or checking the employment plan, or replacement plan, the consequence will be a minimum 15-day waiting period without benefits. The waiting period will continue until the plan is made or

checked, unless the delay is caused by the TE Office.

The consequence of failure to comply with the employment plan may be loss of unemployment security, either for a specified period of time or until further notice.

The applicant is always required to give prior notice if he or she is prevented from taking part in an agreed meeting for drawing up or checking the employment plan or a replacement plan.

Services promoting employment

If a service promoting employment is agreed on in the employment plan or replacement plan, the jobseeker may be entitled to earnings-related or basic daily allowance, or increased labour market support. Moreover, maintenance support can be paid for the duration of most services promoting employment.

Services promoting employment

- Labour market training for adults
- Jobseeker's self-motivated studies supported by unemployment benefit
- On-the-job training, training in preparation for working life, and work trial
- Provisional work and training
- So-called coordinated services for immigrants
- Rehabilitative work

Labour market support: limitations, waiting period, travel subsidy

A young person under 25 years of age without vocational training

A young person under 25 years of age, who is without vocational training and receiving labour market support, must apply for vocational training at three different educational establishments on each common admission date (spring and autumn).

Neglecting to apply for training without a valid reason may lead to a temporary discontinuation of labour market support during unemployment. Refusal to accept vocational training, dropping out without a valid reason or causing one's own dismissal from training may lead to discontinuation of labour market support until further notice.

Labour market support waiting period

During the labour market support waiting period (5 months), a person is not entitled to labour market support during unemployment.

If a person participates in services that promote employment, such as a traineeship, he or she will receive labour market support for the period in question.

Labour market support as travel subsidy

A person entitled to labour market support, who accepts a job outside his or her commuting area, can receive labour market support in the form of a travel subsidy. This support is paid at the discretion of the TE Office.

Entrepreneurs' unemployment benefits

The TE Office examines whether a person can be regarded as an entrepreneur within the unemployment security system. This decision does not necessarily coincide with corresponding decisions by, for example, the Tax Administration. The evaluation takes account of

- Any YEL (Self-Employed Persons' Pension Act) or MYEL (Farmers' Pension Act) pension insurance held by the person in question,
- Employment in a company,
- The person's own and a family member's shareholding,
- The person's position in the company.

An entrepreneur is not entitled to unemployment benefits, if employment in the business is on a full-time basis. The TE Office decides whether or not this is the case.

Unemployment security for students

A full-time student is not entitled to unemployment benefits. The TE Office examines whether a person can be regarded as a full-time student.

Without exception, the TE Office must be informed of entrepreneurial activities and studies.

Support for self-motivated studies

However, on the basis of a labour policy statement by the TE Office, unemployment benefit can support self-motivated studies by the jobseeker.

Preconditions for unemployment benefit in support of self-motivated study include

- That support for studies would essentially improve the jobseeker's preconditions for finding employment
- That the studies are on a full-time basis
- That support for studies is agreed on in the employment or other corresponding plan
- That the jobseeker must be over the age of 25

Further information on support for studies is available from the TE Office.

Effect of work incapacity or illness on unemployment security

A person who is incapacitated for work can be a jobseeker at the TE Office.

If a person receives daily sickness allowance or other compensation paid on the basis of work incapacity, he or she is not generally eligible for unemployment benefits.

Without exception, Kela, or the unemployment fund in question, must be informed of any benefits paid on the basis of incapacity for work. The TE Office must be informed of any sick leave or hospital care.

Do not forget this as regards unemployment security

Travelling abroad during a period of unemployment

An unemployed jobseeker can travel abroad for a maximum of six days when benefits are payable, within any period of approximately one year, without losing his or her unemployment security. The TE Office must be informed in advance of any trip, the travel dates and contact information.

Job search within the EU/EEA

A person receiving earnings-related or basic daily allowance can seek employment for three months in another EU/EEA country, without losing his or her Finnish daily allowance. The TE Office and the unemployment fund or Kela must be informed of departure.

Appeals in unemployment security-related issues

The labour policy statement issued by the TE Office or the Employment Commission is not subject to appeal. However, decisions based on the labour policy statement and issued by an unemployment fund or Kela, are open to appeal. A decision will be issued after the jobseeker has applied for unemployment benefits.

Such an appeal can be made to the Unemployment Appeal Board, and a further appeal against the Board's decision to the Insurance Court.

Unemployment security agent

Each Centre of Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY-centre) has an unemployment security agent whose duty it is to supervise the legality and conformity of labour policy statements within his or her area of operation.

For general advice on matters concerning unemployment security, you should always contact the TE Office or call a national helpline in the first instance.

www.ely-keskus.fi

**First point
of contact in
unemployment
security matters:
TE Office.**

National Help Line Työlinja contact numbers

Individual customers

Register as job applicant, vacancies, changed information for job applications, TE Office services, guidance for web services

+358 10 19 4904
(from Finland, 010 19 4904)
tyolinja@te-toimisto.fi

Educational advice

+358 10 19 4901
(from Finland 010 19 4901)
koulutusneuvonta@te-toimisto.fi

Advice on change security

+358 10 19 4910
(from Finland 010 19 4910)
tyolinja@te-toimisto.fi

Advice on unemployment security

+358 10 19 4911
(from Finland 010 19 4911)

Advice on non-military service

+358 10 19 4903
(from Finland 010 19 4903)

Telephone charges

To numbers beginning '010 19', local network charge from landline subscriptions, mobile phone charge from mobile phones

www.mol.fi

Social Insurance Institution of Finland
The Federation of Unemployment
Insurance Funds in Finland

www.kela.fi

www.tyj.fi