

# INFO LINK

Your link to information regarding North Dakota Unemployment Insurance (UI)

March 2006



Unemployment Insurance  
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***Employer's  
Contribution and  
Wage Reports for  
the quarter ending  
March 31, 2006, are  
due and must be  
submitted by  
April 30, 2006.***

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## INFORMATION, FORMS, AND ASSISTANCE

Pertinent information, forms, and Job Service local office directories may be obtained from our web site at:  
[www.jobsnd.com](http://www.jobsnd.com)

You may also contact your local Unemployment Insurance Customer Service Consultants listed on the back page of this newsletter.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Job Service North Dakota wants to remind general or prime contractors and project owners of the Construction Project Risk Protection Provision of North Dakota Century Code relating to large construction projects. This law requires the general or prime contractor, or the owner in those cases where there is no general or prime contractor, of a major construction project to post a surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit with Job Service North Dakota before commencement of work on the project. The bond or irrevocable letter of credit is in addition to required payment of all Unemployment contributions/taxes due for all employment on the project.

A project is liable to the construction project risk protection provision if the project meets the following criteria:

- Bids are let after August 1, 2001, and
- Construction costs are \$50 million or more, and
- The project is planned to be completed or discontinued within a period of seven years.



Within 30 days of awarding a contract to any contractor, the project owner and prime contractors must notify Job Service North Dakota of the contract awards. In addition, each contractor on a liable project must maintain separate payroll records and must submit separate quarterly reports for all employment on and all wages paid for work on the project. Job Service North Dakota will establish for each entity a separate North Dakota State Unemployment Insurance employer tax account specifically for the project reporting purposes.

If you have questions on any requirements of the Construction Project Risk Protection Provision of North Dakota Century Code, please contact your local Customer Service Consultant, or Job Service North Dakota at 1-800-472-2952.

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## UI EASY



*UI EASY* has been available for a year now. Employers have found the application to be convenient to use and are using it in ever-increasing numbers. Over 1,400 employers chose to file their unemployment insurance reports for the quarter ending 12/31/2005 (accounting for the wages of nearly 50,000 North Dakota workers). A majority of those employers also chose to pay their taxes electronically within *UI EASY*. *UI EASY* allows employers who pay electronically to file early but “warehouse” their payment until a later date.

Employers are asked to complete a short survey at the end of their filing experience so Job Service North Dakota (JSND) may have information necessary to make improvements to the application. During this first year we have received mostly positive comments along with some suggestions for improvements. *UI EASY* now has a feature on the wage-listing page that allows employers to sort employees by Social Security Number, wage amount, or alphabetically by either first or last name. JSND is considering a suggestion that has surfaced several times, that being the ability of *UI EASY* to save banking information for those employers who choose the electronic payment method. If it can be shown to be secure, employers would be offered a choice of whether or not they want this information saved for use in following quarters. JSND is also considering a change that would allow payroll providers to send multiple electronic payments in one file.

JSND encourages all employers to use this secure, easy, convenient method of filing unemployment insurance reports and paying taxes. To register, click on the *UI EASY* link at [www.jobsnd.com](http://www.jobsnd.com). Instructions for *UI EASY* are also available at this website.

## UI CLAIMANTS - JOB ATTACHED OR NOT?

During the 2005 ND Legislative Session, a bill was introduced that would limit the number of workers any employer would be able to designate as job-attached to its business. The purpose of this bill was an attempt to expand the available workforce by requiring more individuals receiving unemployment insurance benefits to seek and accept employment outside of returning to their previous employer. This bill did not pass but rather became a mandated study of Job Service North Dakota's practices and procedures regarding the reemployment process for claimants, as well as the costs to the Unemployment Insurance Area.

Central to the reemployment process is the requirement that claimants search for work while laid off. Currently, “job-attached” claimants are exempt from the work search requirement but must be available for immediate recall to the employer that laid them off. The term “job-attached” refers to claimants who are temporarily laid off and who plan to be reemployed with their previous employer upon completion of the layoff period. Believing that it was important to hear from employers and individuals who receive unemployment insurance benefits regarding the impact of these potential changes in the laws, a survey was sent to 8,000 randomly selected employers and claimants to obtain their input.

In addition to the survey, Job Service North Dakota, in conjunction with the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council held eight public meetings in cities across North Dakota to obtain public input. The survey results were compiled and reviewed by the Council in March. The Advisory Council will then report these findings and their recommendations to the Legislative Industry Business and Labor Committee in April.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE CONSULTANTS

Our staff are available to answer your questions at any of the following locations:

### **BISMARCK**

Bob Arnold  
701-328-5016  
Toll-free in ND 1-800-247-0981  
E-mail: [arnold@state.nd.us](mailto:arnold@state.nd.us)

### **DEVILS LAKE**

Donald Ripplinger  
701-662-9334  
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### **DICKINSON/MANDAN**

Lora Hill  
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### **FARGO**

Michael F. Misialek  
701-799-4228  
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### **GRAND FORKS**

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### **GRAND FORKS**

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### **JAMESTOWN**

Julius Gange  
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### **MINOT**

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### **WILLISTON**

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