

OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Thomas S. Wendel, *Executive Director*
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The Office of Unemployment Insurance began as the Unemployment Compensation Board in December 1936 with the enactment of Maryland's Unemployment Compensation Law. In 1937, the Board was superseded by the Department of Employment Security (Chapter 314, Acts of 1937). The Department's Unemployment Insurance Division administered the unemployment insurance law until 1970. In that year, the Department reorganized as the Department of Employment and Social Services (Chapter 96, Acts of 1970). That department's Employment Security Administration carried on administrative duties and in 1975 was renamed the Unemployment Insurance Division of the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 382, Acts of 1975). In 1983, the Division was transferred to the Department of Employment and Training and renamed the Unemployment Insurance Administration. As the Office of Unemployment Insurance, it became part of the Department of Economic and Employment Development in 1987 (Chapter 311, Acts of 1987). It was transferred in 1995 to the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (Chapter 120, Acts of 1995).

The Office supervises the *Unemployment Insurance Program* carried out by local offices (Code Labor and Employment Article, secs. 8-101 through 8-1505). In accordance with the Maryland Unemployment Insurance Law, the Office collects contributions from employers covered by the Law, collects quarterly wage information on covered employees, determines weekly benefits and eligibility in accordance with this wage information, and issues benefit checks to eligible claimants. It reviews benefit payments to determine if any were improperly made, recovers improper payments, and pays benefits to individuals who formerly worked in Maryland but now reside in other states. As provided by reciprocal interstate agreement, the Office also collects Maryland residents' claims against employers in other states.

Using an experience rating system, the Unemployment Insurance Law allows a reduced contribution rate for employers who maintain steady employment. All funds collected under the Law are deposited with the U.S. Treasury for the credit of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund of Maryland and may be used only to pay benefits.

BENEFITS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS SECTION

Allan H. Berman, *Director*
(410) 767-2465

The Benefits and Special Programs Section determines claimants' eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits. The Section administers the taking and processing of claims, adjudication of ineligible claims, and fraud detection and prosecution. The Section also oversees interstate combined wage and federal unemployment benefit programs.

CONTRIBUTIONS SECTION

Dennis C. Morton, *Chief*
(410) 767-2488

The Contributions Section establishes employer tax accounts and assigns rates, charges benefits, and collects taxes on each account. The Section also collects all delinquent accounts and maintains the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

INTERNAL ANALYSIS SECTION

Lucy A. Smith, *Acting Chief*
(410) 767-2433

The Internal Analysis Section administers benefits and revenue quality control; benefits payment control; internal security and program integrity; and Unemployment Insurance Program management and analysis. The Section also coordinates the agency's responses to all audits performed by outside auditors. It assigns and tracks corrective action to ensure that deficiencies are remedied. Each year, it coordinates and directs statewide the Unemployment Insurance Quality Appraisal, which is federally mandated, to ensure continued funding of the Unemployment Insurance Program.

DIVISION OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

John P. O'Connor, *Commissioner*
of Labor & Industry

Ileana C. O'Brien, *Deputy Commissioner*

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Established in 1884 as the Bureau of Statistics and Information, the Division of Labor and Industry is one of the oldest governmental agencies in this field in the United States, antedating the U.S. Department of Labor by one year (Chapter 211, Acts of 1884). After 1892, the Department was known as the Industrial Bureau. A reorganization in 1916 renamed it the State Board of Labor and Statistics with enforcement powers for all factory acts. Further reformed in 1939 (Chapter 747, Acts of 1939), the Board in 1945 became the Department of Labor and Industry (Chapter 938, Acts of 1945). It adopted its present name in 1970 (Chapter 402, Acts of 1970).

The Division of Labor and Industry enforces laws and regulations affecting workers and employers. Protection for workers is provided by the Division which sets safety standards and promotes harmony between employers and employees. The Division also protects the public by inspecting railroads, boilers, elevators, and amusement rides.

The Division is organized into five sections: Apprenticeship; Employment Standards Service; Occupational Safety and Health; Prevailing Wage; and Safety Inspection. Authorization for the Divi-