

## I'm at risk of losing my job – can I claim benefits?

There is lots of information available online to help you understand what benefits you can claim and provide you with further useful sources of help and support.

Most of the information in this factsheet needs to be accessed online. If you do not have access to a computer or the Internet, you can use these at a jobcentre or library.

### What can I claim?

What benefits you can claim depends on where you live and circumstances. You may be able to claim either:

- Universal Credit by visiting [www.gov.uk/universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/universal-credit)
- Jobseekers Allowance by visiting [www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance) or
- other benefits

If you are unsure what you can claim, you can use a benefit calculator by visiting [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### What happens if I make a claim to benefit and when will I be paid?

Depending on what benefit you claim, you will usually need to attend an interview at your local jobcentre within a few days of the claim being made. They will be able to tell you when you can expect to receive your first payment.

If you claim Universal Credit, it usually takes 5 to 6 weeks for a new claim to be assessed and your first payment to arrive. If you need help with your living costs while you wait for your first payment, you can **apply for an advance** by visiting [www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-advances](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-advances)

### Can I make a claim before I am made redundant?

If you know that your employment is going to end on a specific date, you may be able to claim benefit in advance of this date.

For more information about what you can claim, and how to make a claim, visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### I still have a contract but have not been paid anything can I claim benefits?

Yes. If you are under a contract of service with your employer and there is no work, or less work, available, you can make a claim based on your circumstances at the time of making that claim.

For more information visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### I am on a zero hours contract can I claim anything?

You may be able to make a claim for benefit depending on the amount of work you get to do and the earnings you receive.

For more information, visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

## I'm at risk of losing my job – can I claim benefits?

### I have been put on short time/my hours, and wages have been reduced, can I claim benefits?

If you are put on short time working by your employer, working less days than usual, you can make a claim to benefits. What you can get will depend on either the number of hours you work and/or the earnings you get along with your other personal circumstances.

If you can claim Universal Credit, it will be worked out using the earnings you receive. If you need to claim Jobseeker's Allowance, you must **not** be working 16 hours or more per week on average or have earnings that exceed a set amount.

To find out more about the benefits you could claim visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### I am self-employed can I claim benefits?

You can make a claim but to work out if you can be paid anything you will be asked to provide details of your self-employment and the income you are receiving from it.

To find out more about the benefits you could claim visit [www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

If you are able to claim Universal Credit, you can find out more about how your self-employment is taken into account by visiting [www.gov.uk/self-employment-and-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/self-employment-and-universal-credit)

### What if I am already claiming Universal Credit or Jobseeker's Allowance and my earnings go down or stop?

If you are claiming benefit and there is a change to your circumstances, you should report the change straight away.

If you are already claiming Universal Credit this would usually increase if your earnings are lower than they have been.

### Is there any help and advice for people impacted by the Carillion liquidation?

Yes. There is help available online by visiting

[www.pwc.co.uk/services/business-recovery/administrations/carillion.html](http://www.pwc.co.uk/services/business-recovery/administrations/carillion.html)

You can call the helpline on **0800 0639 282** (open **24 hours** a day **7 days** a week).

### I am an employer and may have to make people redundant, is there any advice available?

Yes. The Acas website has a useful information document at

[www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/1/1/Redundancy-handling-accessible-version.pdf](http://www.acas.org.uk/media/pdf/1/1/Redundancy-handling-accessible-version.pdf)

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*Calls to the 0800 listed numbers are free from landlines and mobiles.*