| Country | Unemployment benefits (II) | | |
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| | *Conditions for accessing unemployment benefits, namely (and exclusively):*<br>o *Qualifying period*<br>o *Means test*<br>o *Waiting period* | | |
| | *Situation 1/1/2008* | *Situation 1/7/2013* | *Regulatory changes* |
| AT | Qualifying period:<br>52 weeks of insurance periods within the last 24 months. 26 weeks within the last 12 months for persons under the age of 25. It is possible to claim Unemployment assistance, once the right to Unemployment benefit has been exhausted.<br><br>Means test:<br>Unemployment benefit (Arbeitslosengeld): No means-test.<br><br>Unemployment assistance (Notstandshilfe): State of need; consideration of the beneficiary's own income and the spouse's income (partner) with free allowance until which the income will not be taken account of: € 473 per month; € 946 for unemployed persons over the age of 50; € 1,419 for unemployed men over the age of 55 or women over 54. The free allowance will be increased by € 236.50 or € 473 or € 709.50 for each person to whose maintenance the partner mainly contributes.<br>Transitional benefit (Übergangsgeld) and transitional benefit after part-time for elder workers (Übergangsgeld nach Altersteilzeit): as unemployment benefit. | Qualifying period:<br>52 weeks of insurance periods within the last 24 months. 26 weeks within the last 12 months for persons under the age of 25.<br>It is possible to claim Unemployment assistance, once the right to Unemployment benefit has been exhausted.<br><br>Means test:<br>Unemployment benefit *(Arbeitslosengeld)*:<br>No means-test.<br><br>Unemployment assistance *(Notstandshilfe)*: State of need; consideration of the beneficiary's own income and the spouse's income (partner) with free allowance until which the income will not be taken account of: €609 per month; €1,058 for unemployed persons over the age of 50; €1,587 for unemployed men over the age of 55 or women over 54. The free allowance will be increased by €264.50 or €529 or €793.50 for each person to whose maintenance the partner mainly contributes.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period.<br>Upon termination of employment relationship | No significant regulatory changes. |

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| | Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. Upon termination of employment relationship through the employee's fault or in the case the employee terminates the employment relationship without good reason the entitlement is suspended for 4 weeks. | through the employee's fault or in the case the employee terminates the employment relationship without good reason the entitlement is suspended for 4 weeks. | |
| BE | Qualifying period:<br>Period varies according to the age of the insured person between 312 working days during the previous 18 months, and 624 working days over the previous 36 months.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>Period varies according to the age of the insured person between 312 working days during the previous 21 months, and 624 working days over the previous 42 months<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test<br>.<br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Longer reference periods. |
| BG | Qualifying period:<br>At least 9 months during the last 15 months before the unemployment (insurance against all risks).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>At least 9 months during the last 15 months before the unemployment (insurance against all risks).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period | No regulatory change apparent from the MISSOC database. |
| CH | Qualifying period:<br>12 months of contributions, within a reference period of 2 years preceding unemployment. Certain persons are exempted from the contribution period conditions. Longer reference period for persons who raised their child or started a self-employed activity without the help of the unemployment insurance.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>5 days. Does not concern persons whose insured salary does not exceed certain limits. | Qualifying period:<br>12 months of contributions, within a reference period of 2 years preceding unemployment. Certain persons are exempted from the contribution period conditions. Longer reference period for persons who raised their child or started a self-employed activity without the help of the unemployment insurance.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>General waiting period: 5 days. For persons with no maintenance obligations towards children under 25, | Introduction of differentiated (longer) waiting periods whose duration is proportionate to income. |

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| | Special waiting periods (in addition to the general waiting period):<br>120 days for persons under 25 years exempted from the contribution period conditions, who have no dependent children and who have not completed any occupational training (waiting period deferred if participation in an occupational programme);<br>5 days for the other persons exempted from the contribution period conditions (exemption from the waiting period if participation in an active labour market programme);<br>1 day for persons coming to the end of a seasonal job or a profession in which changes of employer are frequent or working relationships last for a limited period. | the waiting period amounts to:<br>• 10 days for an insured salary between CHF60,001 (€48,602) and CHF90,000 (€72,902) per year;<br>• 15 days for an insured salary between CHF90,001 (€72,903) and CHF125,000 (€101,253) per year;<br>• 20 days for an insured salary above CHF125,000 (€101,253) per year.<br>The waiting period does not apply to insured persons whose insured salary is lower than CHF36,000 (€29,161) per year neither to insured persons whose insured salary is between CHF36,001 (€29,162) and CHF60,000 (€48,602) per year and who have maintenance obligations towards children under 25.<br><br>Special waiting periods (in addition to the general waiting period):<br>• 120 days for persons exempted from the contribution period conditions because of training, illness, accident, maternity or detention;<br>• 5 days for the other persons exempted from the contribution period conditions;<br>• 1 day for persons coming to the end of a seasonal job or a profession in which changes of employer are frequent or working relationships last for a limited period. | |
| CY | Qualifying period:<br>Conditions relate to extent of contributions paid:<br>The insured person has been insured for at least 26 weeks up to the date of unemployment,<br>Lower part of insurable earnings up to the date of unemployment equal to at least 26 times the weekly Basic Insurable Earnings (Βασικές Ασφαλιστέες Αποδοχές) of € 147.45 per week;<br>and Paid and credited insurable earnings in the benefit year are at least equal to 20 times the weekly amount of Basic Insurable Earnings.<br>Definitions:<br>Lower part of insurable earnings: insurable earnings | Qualifying period:<br>Conditions relate to the extent of contributions paid:<br>• the insured person has been insured for at least 26 weeks up to the date of unemployment;<br>• paid basic insurance up to the date of unemployment equal to at least 26 times the weekly Basic Insurable Earnings *(Βασικές Ασφαλιστέες Αποδοχές)* of €174.38 per week (0.50 insurance point); and<br>• paid and assimilated insurance in the relevant contribution year is at least equal to 20 times the weekly amount of Basic Insurable Earnings (0.39 insurance point). | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013, additional information was given about regaining entitlement following exhaustion.<br><br>Change in terminology/concepts; introduction of insurance points. |

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| | up to Basic Insurable Earnings.<br>Upper part of insurable earnings: insurable earnings over Basic Insurable Earnings.<br>Benefit year: Starts from the first Monday of July and ends the last Sunday prior to the first Monday from which the benefit year will start.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>3 days (for voluntary abroad contributors the waiting period is 30 days). | Following the exhaustion of payment, entitlement can be regained after 26 weeks of employment from the day of exhaustion and provided that insurance has been paid during that period equal to at least 26 times the weekly Basic Insurable Earnings (Βασικές Ασφαλιστέες Αποδοχές).<br><br>*Definitions*:<br>*Basic insurance:* insurable earnings up to Basic Insurable Earnings (up to one insurance point).<br>*One insurance point:* equal to 52 times the weekly basic amount = € 9,068.<br>*Relevant contribution year*: the last contribution year, prior to the benefit year, which includes the date of fulfilling the relevant insurance conditions.<br>*Benefit year*: the period which starts the first Monday of July of each year and ends the last Sunday prior to the first Monday of July of the following year<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>3 days (for voluntary abroad contributors the waiting period is 30 days). | |
| CZ | Qualifying period:<br>12 months of working activity in the past 3 years (or alternative time of employment) based on paying contribution to social security and state employment policy.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>12 months of basic pension insurance in the past 2 years on account of carrying out employment or another working activity.<br>The condition of 12 months can also be completed by substitute periods of employment (e.g. personal care of a child).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>In 2008 the requirement was a certain amount of working activity whereas in 2013 it was a certain amount of basic pension insurance. Also the reference period was shortened by 2013.<br>In 2013 it is especially stated that also substitute periods of employment are taken into account whereas in 2008 this information is missing. |
| | Qualifying period:<br>Unemployment insurance | Qualifying period:<br>Unemployment insurance | Means test:<br>No regulatory change obvious from the MISSOC |

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| DE | (Arbeitslosenversicherung): The unemployed person must have been compulsorily insured for at least 12 months during the last 2 years.<br>Basic security benefits for jobseekers (Grundsicherung für Arbeitsuchende): No qualifying period.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance (Arbeitslosenversicherung):<br>No means-test.<br>Basic security benefits for jobseekers (Grundsicherung für Arbeitsuchende):<br>Means test, income and assets are credited as a rule. Exceptions:<br>No crediting of certain pensions, small income, funds granted by third parties up to a certain limit and various interim allowances or transitional allowances;<br>no crediting of special-purpose income/funds granted by non-governmental welfare organizations up to a certain ceiling and damages;<br>deductibles for taxes, compulsory social security contributions and insurance premiums, as far as legally determined or appropriate in accordance with reasoning and amount, income-related expenses and subsidised sums for old-age provision;<br>sliding scale of exclusion amounts for crediting earned income and for taking into account assets.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>No waiting period. | *(Arbeitslosenversicherung)*: The unemployed person must have been compulsorily insured for at least 12 months during the last 2 years.<br><br>Basic security benefits for jobseekers *(Grundsicherung für Arbeitsuchende)*:<br>No qualifying period required.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance *(Arbeitslosenversicherung)*:<br>No means-test.<br><br>Basic security benefits for jobseekers (*Grundsicherung für Arbeitsuchende*): Means test; income and assets of the domestic unit *(Bedarfsgemeinschaft)* are credited as a rule. Exceptions:<br>• No crediting of certain pensions, small income, funds granted by third parties up to a certain limit and various interim allowances or transitional allowances;<br>• no crediting of special-purpose income/funds granted by non-governmental welfare organizations up to a certain ceiling and damages;<br>• deductibles for taxes, compulsory social security contributions and insurance premiums, as far as legally determined or appropriate in accordance with reasoning and amount, income-related expenses and subsidised sums for old-age provision;<br>• sliding scale of exclusion amounts for crediting earned income and for taking into account assets.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>In principle no waiting period.<br>If the unemployed person has terminated his/her employment contract without good reason or has caused the termination of the contract through | database, however, in 2013 it was specified that the income and assets of the domestic unit *(Bedarfsgemeinschaft)* are credited, whereas in 2008 the domestic unit was not stated.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>In principle no regulatory change; in 2013; information on the *Sperrzeit* was added (in case of voluntary unemployment). |

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| | | his/her own misconduct, a waiting period (a so-called blocking period, *Sperrzeit*) of up to 12 weeks may become effective. | |
| DK | Qualifying period:<br>Basic allowance: To have completed a minimum period of employment and insurance of 52 weeks during the 3 preceding years.<br>Earnings-related fund: 1 year of insurance with fund.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Employees: No waiting period.<br>Self employed: 4 weeks. | Qualifying period:<br>Basic allowance:<br>A minimum period of 1,924 hours (corresponding to full-time employment during one year) during the 3 preceding years is required. Only employment carried out while being insured is taken into account.<br><br>Earnings-related fund:<br>Membership for at least 1 year.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Employees: No waiting period if involuntary unemployed.<br>3 weeks waiting period if voluntary unemployed.<br>Self employed: 3 weeks. | Waiting period:<br>The waiting period for self-employed people decreased by one week from 2008 till 2013. In 2008 it was not stated that a waiting period applies to voluntarily unemployed. |
| EE | Qualifying period:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit (töötuskindlustushüvitis):<br>Insurance period (payment of contributions) of 12 months over the 36 months preceding registration as an unemployed.<br>Unemployment Allowance (töötutoetus): 180 calendar days of work or equivalent activity over the 12 months before the application.<br><br>Means test:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit (töötuskindlustushüvitis) and Unemployment Allowance (töötutoetus):<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit (töötuskindlustushüvitis): 7 calendar days. | Qualifying period:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit *(töötuskindlustushüvitis)*:<br>Insurance period (payment of contributions) of 12 months over the 36 months preceding registration as unemployed.<br>Unemployment Allowance (*töötutoetus*): 180 calendar days of work or equivalent activity over the 12 months before registration as unemployed.<br><br>Means test:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit *(töötuskindlustushüvitis)*:<br>No means test.<br>Unemployment Allowance (*töötutoetus*): Means-tested: income should not exceed the monthly (31-daily) unemployment allowance rate. Are counted as income: earnings, State old-age pensions and other benefits except those listed under “Accumulation | A means test for unemployment allowance was in place by 2013 contrary to 2008 when unemployment allowance was not mentioned as being means tested.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>For unemployment allowance:<br>In 2008 the 60 calendar days counted from the date of registration as unemployed and in 2013 they count from the date of application for unemployment allowance. In 2008 the longer waiting period applied to persons whose previous contract was terminated by the employer on the basis of loss of confidence. |

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| | Unemployment Allowance (töötutoetus): Generally 7 calendar days, 60 calendar days from the date of registration as an unemployed person in case of: students after graduation, termination of previous contract by employer on the basis of loss of confidence. | with other social security benefits". Assets and real property are not taken into account. The means test is confined to the individual applicant.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Unemployment Insurance Benefit *(töötuskindlustushüvitis)*:<br>7 calendar days.<br>Unemployment Allowance (*töötutoetus*): Generally 7 calendar days. However, 60 calendar days from the date of application for unemployment allowance for persons who, before registration as unemployed, were enrolled in daytime or full-time study at an educational institution. | |
| ES | Qualifying period:<br><br>Insurance: Minimum contribution period of 360 days during the 6 years immediately preceding the legal unemployment situation.<br><br>Assistance:<br>Allowance: Generally none, although certain unemployment allowances require a minimum contribution of 3 months (with family responsibilities) or 6 months (without family responsibilities) or 6 years in the course of the person's career (persons over 52 years of age).<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Insurance:<br>No means-test.<br><br>Assistance:<br>Allowance: Not having income from any source exceeding 75% of the minimum wage (Salario Mínimo Interprofesional) in effect. In those cases where having family responsibilities is required, the monthly income of the family unit divided by the number of the family members must not exceed 75% of the minimum wage in effect. | Qualifying period:<br><br>Insurance: Minimum contribution period of 360 days during the 6 years immediately preceding the legal unemployment situation.<br><br>Assistance:<br>Allowance: generally none, although certain unemployment allowances require a minimum contribution of 3 months (with family responsibilities) or 6 months (without family responsibilities) or 6 years in the course of the person's career (persons over 55 years of age).<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Insurance:<br>No means-test.<br><br>Assistance:<br>(1) Allowance:<br>Not having income from any source exceeding 75% of the minimum wage *(Salario Mínimo Interprofesional)* in effect. In those cases where having family responsibilities is required, the monthly income of the family unit divided by the number of the family members must not exceed | Qualifying period (assistance):<br>The minimum contribution period of 6 years in the course of the person's career applied in 2008 to persons over 52 years of age whereas in 2013 it applied to persons over 55 years of age. |

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| | Waiting period:<br><br>Insurance:<br>In general, no waiting period.<br><br>Assistance:<br>Allowance:<br>One month at the disposal of the employment office as from the expiry date of the contributory benefit. In other cases, there is no waiting period. | 75% of the minimum wage in effect.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>*Insurance:*<br>In general, no waiting period.<br><br>*Assistance:*<br>Allowance:<br>One month at the disposal of the employment office as from the expiry date of the contributory benefit. In other cases, there is no waiting period. | |
| FI | Qualifying period:<br>Insurance: Basic unemployment allowance (peruspäiväraha):<br>Employees: Initial condition at least 43 weeks of employment during the last 28 months and during each week at least 18 hours. Re-eligibility condition at least 34 weeks of employment during the last 24 months and during each week at least 18 hours.<br>Self-employed persons: at least 24 months of entrepreneurship during the last 48 months.<br>Earnings-related unemployment allowance (ansioperusteinen työttömyyspäiväraha): As under "basic unemployment allowance" and to have fulfilled the employment requirement while being insured as a member of an unemployment fund.<br>Assistance (Labour market support, työmarkkinatuki): No qualifying period;<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Insurance: No means test.<br><br>Assistance (Labour market support, työmarkkinatuki): Means test, but not:<br>During labour market measures;<br>during the first 180 days after the maximum period of payment of unemployment allowance;<br>concerning persons aged 55-64 who have fulfilled the employment conditions when unemployment | Qualifying period:<br>Insurance:<br>Basic unemployment allowance *(peruspäiväraha)*:<br>• Employees: Initial condition at least 34 weeks of employment during the last 28 months and during each week at least 18 hours.<br>• Self-employed persons: at least 18 months of entrepreneurship during the last 48 months.<br>Earnings-related unemployment allowance *(ansioperusteinen työttömyyspäiväraha)*:<br>As under "basic unemployment allowance" and to have fulfilled the employment requirement while being insured as a member of an unemployment fund.<br><br>Assistance (Labour market support, *työmarkkinatuki*): No qualifying period.<br><br>Means test:<br>Insurance:<br>No means test.<br><br>Assistance (Labour market support, *työmarkkinatuki*):<br>Means test according to the main rule, but not:<br>• During participation in employment promotion measures;<br>• during the first 180 days after the maximum period of payment of unemployment allowance; | Means test:<br>With regard to unemployment assistance it is explicitly stated in 2013 what kind of income is not taken into account for the means test whereas in 2008 this information is missing.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>In 2013 it was added that for unemployment assistance a 90 day waiting period applies to a person who resigned his job without a valid reason or the employment was terminated through his/her own fault. |

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| | started.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Insurance: 7 working days during 8 consecutive weeks. A<br><br>ssistance (Labour market support, työmarkkinatuki): 5 working days during 8 consecutive weeks. Persons entering the labour market for the first time have a waiting period of 5 months. This is not applied to persons who have completed their vocational training. | • concerning persons aged 55-64 who have fulfilled the employment conditions when unemployment started.<br><br>The means test takes account of a person's own income as a whole. The following income is not taken into account:<br>• child allowance *(lapsilisä)*,<br>• general housing allowance and pensioners' housing allowance *(Eläkkeensaajien asumistuki)*,<br>• survivors' pensions,<br>• pensioners' care allowance *(Eläkkeensaajien hoitotuki)* or disability allowance (*Vammaistuki*),<br>• disability indemnity under the Employment Accident Insurance Act *(Tapaturmavakuutuslaki)*, Conscript's Allowance or annuity or supplemental annuity under the Military Injuries Act,<br>• social assistance.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Insurance:<br>7 working days during 8 consecutive weeks.<br><br>Assistance (Labour market support, *työmarkkinatuki*). 5 working days during 8 consecutive weeks.<br><br>Persons entering the labour market for the first time have a waiting period of 5 months. This is not applied to persons who have completed their vocational training.<br><br>The unemployment benefit is not paid for 90 days if the person has resigned his job without a valid reason or the employment was terminated through his/her own fault. | |
| | Qualifying period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance (assurance chômage): At | Qualifying period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance *(assurance chômage)*: At | Qualifying period:<br>For the unemployment insurance the qualifying period was reduced from 2008 till 2013, while the |

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| FR | least 6 months (182 days) insurance during the last 22 months preceding the unemployment.<br><br>Unemployment assistance (régime de solidarité): For the Allowance of specific solidarity (allocation solidarité spécifique): 5 years of activity during the 10 years preceding the end of the working contract.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance (assurance chômage): No means-test. Unemployment assistance (régime de solidarité): Ceiling of monthly income: Allowance of specific solidarity (allocation solidarité spécifique) single person: € 1,031.80 couple: € 1,621.40 Temporary waiting period allowance (allocation temporaire d'attente):Prove a personal income up to the guaranteed minimum resources single person € 447.91<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance (assurance chômage): The waiting period comprises paid holidays plus a general period of 7 days plus a waiting period equal to the amount of the redundancy payment divided by the amount of the salary of reference within a limit of 75 days.<br>Unemployment assistance (régime de solidarité): No waiting period. | least 4 months (122 days) insurance during the last 28 months (36 months for those aged 50 and over) preceding the unemployment.<br><br>Unemployment assistance *(régime de solidarité)*: For the Allowance of specific solidarity *(allocation de solidarité spécifique, ASS)*: 5 years of activity as an employed person during the 10 years preceding the end of the working contract.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance *(assurance chômage)*: No means-test.<br><br>Unemployment assistance *(régime de solidarité)*: Ceiling of monthly income:<br>• Allowance of specific solidarity *(allocation de solidarité spécifique, ASP)*: single person: €1,113; couple: €1,749.<br>• Temporary waiting period allowance *(allocation temporaire d'attente)*: amount of the active solidarity income *(revenu de solidarité active, RSA)* (single person: €483.24).<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance *(assurance chômage)*: The waiting period comprises paid holidays plus a general period of 7 days plus a waiting period equal to the amount of the redundancy payment divided by the amount of the salary of reference within a limit of 75 days.<br><br>Unemployment assistance *(régime de solidarité)*: No waiting period. | reference period was prolonged. |
| EL | Qualifying period:<br>At least 125 days of work during the 14 months preceding job loss or, at least, 200 days of work during the 2 years preceding job loss. For first time claimants, an additional requirement of at least 80 | Qualifying period:<br>At least 125 days of work during the 14 months preceding job loss or, at least, 200 days of work during the 2 years preceding job loss. From the reference periods the two last months are excluded. | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013 the two last months are excluded from the reference periods. |

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| | days of work per year during the 2 previous years applies.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>6 days | For first time claimants, an additional requirement of at least 80 days of work per year during the 2 previous years applies.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>6 days. | |
| HR | Qualifying period:<br>No information in MISSOC database available.<br><br>Means test:<br>No information in MISSOC database available.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No information in MISSOC database available. | Qualifying period:<br>9 months of previous employment during the last 24 months.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | |
| HU | Qualifying period:<br>Persons concerned shall be employed for at least 365 days during the previous 4 years. Job-seeker aid can be granted to a job seeker who was employed for at least 200 days during the previous four years<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Involuntary unemployment: No waiting period.<br>Voluntary unemployment: 90 calendar days after registration with labour centre.<br>Summary dismissal: 90 calendar days after registration with Labour Centre. | Qualifying period:<br>At least 360 days of insurance during the previous 3 years.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>In 2008 a person had to be employed for a certain amount of days whereas in 2013 a person had to be insured for a certain amount of days. The amount of these days within a certain time period varies as well, since in 2008 it was 365 days within 4 years and in 2013 it was 360 days within 3 years, So, in 2013 both the qualifying period and the reference period in which it has to be completed, were shorter.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>In 2008, a difference was made between involuntary and voluntary unemployment, as well as information given in case of summary dismissal. For voluntary unemployment and summary dismissal a waiting period of 90 days applies after registration with the labour centre. |
| IE | Qualifying period:<br><br>Insurance:<br>39 weekly contributions paid; | Qualifying period:<br><br>Insurance:<br>• 104 weekly contributions paid; and | Qualifying period:<br>For unemployment insurance the amount of weekly contributions paid as a qualifying condition increased significantly from 39 weeks in 2008 to 104 |

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| | and 39 weekly contributions paid or credited during the relevant contribution year preceding the benefit year,<br>or 26 weekly contributions paid in each of the two relevant tax years preceding the benefit year.<br><br>Assistance: No qualifying period; means test.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Insurance: No means test.<br><br>Assistance: Satisfy a means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Insurance: 3 days. Assistance: 3 days. (Except when claimant was in receipt of insurance immediately prior to claim.) | • 39 weekly contributions paid or credited during the relevant contribution year preceding the benefit year, of which a minimum of 13 must be paid contributions. The latter requirement may be satisfied by contributions paid in some other contribution years, or<br>• 26 weekly contributions paid in each of the two relevant tax years preceding the benefit year.<br>•<br>Assistance:<br>No qualifying period.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Insurance: No means test.<br><br>Assistance: Satisfy a means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br><br>Insurance: 3 days. Assistance: 3 days. (Except when claimant was in receipt of insurance immediately prior to claim.) | weeks in 2013. Another change in 2013 as opposed to 2008 is the requirement of a minimum of 13 weeks paid contributions out of the 39 weekly contributions (paid or credited) during the relevant contribution year preceding the benefit year. |
| IS | Qualifying period:<br>12 months consecutive work on the domestic labour market. 3 months work during the last 12 months give entitlement to minimum benefits.<br>Part time work reduces the benefits proportionally.<br>In addition self-employed persons must have paid social security contribution (tryggingagjald) during the last year before ceasing employment and becoming unemployed and must have paid income tax for at least 3 months.<br>The unemployed must have been registered as unemployed for 3 days continuously at the beginning of the period.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test. | Qualifying period:<br>12 months of consecutive work on the domestic labour market for entitlement to maximum benefits.<br>3 months of work during the last 12 months for entitlement to minimum benefits.<br>Part-time work gives entitlement to proportional benefits.<br>In addition self-employed persons must have paid social security contribution *(tryggingagjald)* during the last year before becoming unemployed for entitlement to maximum benefits and for at least 3 months prior to becoming unemployed for entitlement to minimum benefits.<br>The unemployed must have been registered as unemployed for 3 days continuously at the beginning of the period. | No significant regulatory changes. |

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| | Waiting period:<br>No waiting period, when unemployment is not caused by any fault of the employee. In case of resignation from work or when employment ceases due to fault of the employee the waiting period is 40 working days for the first time. The benefit period will be reduced accordingly. | Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period, when unemployment is not caused by any fault of the employee. In case of resignation from work or when employment ceases due to fault of the employee the waiting period is 2 months for the first time. The benefit period will be reduced accordingly. | |
| IT | Qualifying period:<br>Ordinary unemployment benefit: Two years of insurance and 52 weekly contributions during the last 2 years.<br>Special unemployment benefit: 10 monthly contributions of 43 weekly contributions during the last two years in the building industry.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Waiting period of 8 days. | Qualifying period:<br>Employment social allowance *(Assegno Sociale per l'Impiego, ASpI):*<br>Having matured at least two years of work insurance contributions one of which accrued during the two years prior to the onset of unemployment.<br><br>*Mini ASpI:*<br>Having matured at least 13 weeks (3 months) of contributions during the 12 months prior to dismissal.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Waiting period of 8 days. | Qualifying period:<br>Introduction of AspI and Mini ASpI by 2013 (general reform). Special unemployment benefit and Mini ASpI differ significantly. |
| LI | Qualifying period:<br>6-month insurance period during the previous 2 years (reference period).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Persons who are credited non-contributory insurance periods are not entitled to unemployment benefit during a legally determined maximum waiting period of 6 months, before they will receive the | Qualifying period:<br>The person had to be insured for at least 12 months during the last two years before claiming unemployment benefits.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Entitlement starts after a waiting period of five days of verified unemployment. The unemployment needs to have lasted at least two days. The waiting period | Qualifying period:<br>The insurance period in 2013 was double as long as in 2008 (increase from 6 to 12 months within the same time frame).<br><br>Waiting period:<br>In 2008 no waiting period applied except in special cases. In 2013 a waiting period of 5 days applies, increased to 10, 15 or 20 days depending on income.<br>With regard to persons exempted from contribution period, the maximum waiting period set by the |

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| | benefit for the first time.<br>Applicants responsible for their own unemployment will not receive daily cash benefits for up to 60 days. In all other cases no waiting period. | equals 10, 15 or 20 days depending on income. Persons who are exempted from the contribution period are not entitled to unemployment benefit during a specific waiting period set by the government, not lasting longer than 12 months, and this for their first receipt of benefits. This waiting period is additional to the normal waiting period.<br><br>Applicants responsible for their own unemployment will not receive daily cash benefits for up to 60 days. | government increased from 6 months in 2008 to 12 months in 2013. |
| LT | Qualifying period:<br>General: minimum period of insurance: 18 months within 3 years preceding unemployment.<br>There are exceptions for certain groups of unemployed people who contributed but have not acquired the necessary social insurance record due to important reasons (they were dismissed on the initiative of the employer, when they are not at fault, etc); exceptions also for those who did not contribute (see "Field of Application" above).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Unemployment through no fault of the employee: 7 calendar days.<br>Unemployment in case of employee's fault: 3 months. | Qualifying period:<br>General: minimum period of insurance: 18 months within 3 years preceding unemployment.<br>There are exceptions for certain groups of unemployed people who contributed but have not acquired the necessary social insurance record due to important reasons (they were dismissed on the initiative of the employer, when they are not at fault, etc); exceptions also for those who did not contribute (see Table X, "Field of Application") and those jobseekers, who finished mandatory basic military service or alternative military service or were dismissed after having fulfilled more than half of the designated service time.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Unemployment through no fault of the employee: 8 calendar days or the period during which severance pay or compensation of the amount of monthly average wage is paid as agreed between employer and employee.<br><br>Unemployment in case of employee's fault:<br>3 months.<br><br>The unemployed persons receiving social insurance sickness benefits, occupational rehabilitation benefits, maternity benefits or maternity (paternity) | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013 additional groups of unemployed people were mentioned which are exempted from the set qualifying period, namely those who finished mandatory basic military service or alternative military service or were dismissed after having fulfilled more than half of the designated service time.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>The waiting period in case of unemployment through no fault of the employee increased from 2008 to 2013 by one day. Additionally, in 2013 an alternative period in this case is mentioned namely the period during which severance pay or compensation of the amount of monthly average wage is paid as agreed between employer and employee.<br><br>In addition in 2013 a rule is added stating that if a person is in receipt of certain kinds of benefit granted prior to registration as unemployed, the Unemployment Insurance Benefit will be granted after expiry of the said benefit. |

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| | | benefits, granted prior to the registration at the local office of Lithuanian Labour Exchange *(Lietuvos darbo birža)* shall be granted the Unemployment Insurance Benefit *(Nedarbo draudimo išmoka)* not earlier than upon the expiry of the term of payment of these benefits. | |
| LU | Qualifying period:<br>At least 26 weeks of employment during the last year.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>At least 26 weeks of employment during the last year.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | No regulatory change apparent from the MISSOC database. |
| LV | Qualifying period:<br>Socially insured for at least 1 year, paid at least 12 months of contributions in 18 months before registering as unemployed.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Involuntary unemployment: No waiting period.<br>Voluntary unemployment and summary dismissal: Two months. | Qualifying period:<br>- Socially insured for at least 1 year,<br>- paid at least 9 months of contributions in 12 months before registering as unemployed.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Involuntary unemployment: no waiting period.<br>Voluntary unemployment and summary dismissal: Two months. | Qualifying period:<br>The qualifying/reference periods decreased from 2008 till 2013, being 12 months of contributions in last 18 months in 2008 and 9 months of contributions in last 12 months in 2013. |
| MT | Qualifying period:<br>50 weeks of paid contributions of which at least 20 paid or credited should be in the last two previous years.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>If he/she leaves employment voluntarily or because of misconduct no benefit is paid for a period of 6 months. | Qualifying period:<br>50 weeks of paid contributions of which at least 20 paid or credited should be in the last two previous years.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br>Special Unemployment Benefit *(Beneficcju specjali ghal dizimpjieg)* is, however, means-tested.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period in case of involuntary | Means test:<br>Special means-tested unemployment benefit mentioned in 2013, no information in 2008. |

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| | | unemployment.<br>If the person leaves employment voluntarily or because of misconduct no benefit is paid for a period of 6 months. | |
| NL | Qualifying period:<br>Short-term benefit (kortdurende uitkering): At least 26 weeks of paid employment during the last 36 weeks (week condition).<br>Salary-related benefit (loongerelateerde uitkering): 26-weeks-condition and employment in at least 4 years during the last 5 calendar years, in each of which a salary over 52 days was paid (4-out-of-5 condition).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>A person who has received wages in at least 26 weeks out of the 36 weeks before the first day of unemployment (weeks' condition) qualifies for a three-month benefit.<br><br>A person who has received wages for at least 208 hours in four of the five calendar years preceding the year in which s/he became unemployed, (years' condition) qualifies for a benefit payable for a number of months that equals the number of months in employment (with a maximum of 38 months).<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>General adaptation. Among other things, the so-called 4-out-of-5 condition for salary-related benefit was replaced by the "years' condition". |
| NO | Qualifying period:<br>Have had an income from work of at least 1.5 the Basic Amount (Grunnbeløpet) i.e. NOK 100,218 (€ 12,550) in the previous calendar year, or an average per year of at least the Basic Amount of NOK 66,812 (€ 8,367) over the last 3 calendar years.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Registered as unemployed for 3 days over the last 15 days, Saturdays and Sundays excluded.<br>Waiting period prolonged to 8 weeks in case the worker has become unemployed by his own choice or fault. Longer prolongation in case of recurrence within a 12 months period. | Qualifying period:<br>Have had an income from work of at least 1.5 the Basic Amount *(Grunnbeløpet)* i.e. NOK127,868 (€16,116) in the previous calendar year, or an average per year of at least the Basic Amount of NOK85,245 (€10,744) over the last 3 calendar years. Pregnancy benefits, parental benefits and benefits in the case of sickness which is related to pregnancy counts as income from work.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>Registered as unemployed for 3 days over the last 15 days, Saturdays and Sundays excluded.<br>Waiting period prolonged to 8 weeks in case the worker has become unemployed by his own choice | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013 it was mentioned that certain types of benefits (Pregnancy benefits, parental benefits, sickness benefits related to pregnancy) count as income from work. |

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| | | or fault. Longer prolongation in case of recurrence within a 12-month period. | |
| PL | Qualifying period:<br>At least 365 calendar days during the 18 months preceding the day of registration.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>7 calendar days. | Qualifying period:<br>At least 365 calendar days of paid employment during the 18 months preceding the day of registration.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>7 calendar days. | No regulatory change apparent from the MISSOC database. |
| PT | Qualifying period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance:<br>At least 450 days of salaried work and contribution payment, or assimilated situation, in 24 months preceding commencement of unemployment.<br>Unemployment assistance: At least 180 days' salaried work in the 12 months preceding commencement of unemployment.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance: No means test.<br><br>Unemployment assistance:<br>Average monthly income not exceeding 80% of the indexing reference of social support IAS (indexante dos apoios sociais).<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br><br>Unemployment insurance:<br>At least 360 days of employed work and contribution payment, or assimilated situation, in the 24 months preceding commencement of unemployment.<br><br>Unemployment assistance:<br>At least 180 days of employed work in the 12 months preceding commencement of unemployment.<br><br>Means test:<br><br>Unemployment insurance:<br><br>No means test.<br><br>Unemployment assistance:<br><br>Monthly household income not exceeding 80% of the indexing reference of social support IAS *(indexante dos apoios sociais)*. The income per person of the household is considered according to an equivalence scale as follows: 0.5 for each minor, 0.7 for each adult and 1 for the claimant.<br>The value of the movable assets of the beneficiary and of his/her household should not exceed 240 | Qualifying period:<br>For unemployment insurance, the required minimum days of employed work were more in 2008 (450 days) than in 2013 (360 days) within the same time period.<br><br>Means test:<br>In 2013 additional information is stated on the income consideration per person and household and the consideration and valuation of the beneficiary's movable assets. |

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| | | times the IAS.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | |
| RO | Qualifying period:<br>12 months during the 24 months preceding registration.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>Minimum contribution period:<br>12 months during the 24 months preceding the application date.<br>No qualifying period for graduates.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013 it was stated that there is no qualifying period for graduates. |
| SE | Qualifying period:<br>To have been employed or self-employed for at least 6 months and at least 80 hours of work per month during the last 12 months or<br>To have been employed or self-employed for at least 480 hours during a consecutive period of 6 months with at least 50 hours of work every month during the last 12 months (working condition).<br>In order to get earnings-related benefit the applicant must also be a member of an unemployment insurance fund for at least 12 months.<br><br>If necessary at most 2 months in the working condition may be replaced by leave of absence with Parent's cash benefit (föräldrapenning) or compulsory military service.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test. | Qualifying period:<br>• To have been employed or self-employed for at least 6 months and at least 80 hours of work per month during the last 12 months or<br>• To have been employed or self-employed for at least 480 hours during a consecutive period of 6 months with at least 50 hours of work every month during the last 12 months (working condition).<br>• In order to get earnings-related benefit the applicant must also be a member of an unemployment insurance fund for at least 12 months. Moreover, the applicant needs to prove work in the unemployment fund's scope of practice.<br>In order to promote membership of unemployment insurance funds, and against the backdrop of the economic downturn, months between 1 January and 31 December 2009 are counted twice.<br><br>If necessary at most 2 months in the working condition may be replaced by leave of absence with Parent's cash benefit *(föräldrapenning)* or military education as recruit within the Armed Forces.<br><br>For those whose days with either sickness benefit or | Qualifying period:<br>In 2013 additional requirements were introduced in order to get earnings-related benefit, namely prove working in the unemployment fund's scope of practice.<br>Temporary (crisis) measures aimed at facilitating access to unemployment benefits, e.g. by counting certain periods double or by prolonging the reference period. These measures expired in 2013.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>The waiting period increased from 5 days in 2008 to 7 days in 2013. |

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| | Waiting period:<br>5 days. | temporary sickness compensation have reached a maximum, it is now possible to enter an unemployment insurance fund and fulfil the membership condition in three months. In order to qualify for income related benefits, this group is also allowed to use a working condition in the previous membership period. This change is intended to apply from January 2010 to January 2013.<br><br>For persons who have been long-term absent from work because of sickness, the reference period is extended from five to ten years, allowing them to fulfil the qualifying period with work performed further back in time. This extension is intended to apply from January 2010 to January 2013.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>7 days | |
| SI | Qualifying period:<br>At least 12 months of employment (full time equivalent) during the previous 18 months.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>At least 9 months of insurance during the previous 24 months.<br><br>For unemployed persons younger than 30 years: at least 6 months of insurance during the previous 24 months.<br><br>Means test:<br>No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | Qualifying period:<br>The qualifying period decreased from 2008 till 2013, while the reference period increased. Also in 2008 months of employment were taken into account whereas in 2013 it were months of insurance. |
| SK | Qualifying period:<br>At least 3 years (2 years in case of temporary employment) of unemployment insurance contributions during the last 4 years.<br><br>Means test: | Qualifying period:<br>At least 2 years of unemployment insurance contributions during the last 3 years (4 years in case of temporary employment).<br><br>Means test: | Leaving aside the case of temporary employment, the qualifying period was shortened but so was the reference period. |

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| | No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | No means test.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>No waiting period. | |
| UK | Qualifying period:<br>Contribution-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>No qualifying period, but contributions must have been paid. See 'determining factors'.<br>Contributions paid in one of the 2 tax years on which the claim is based amounting to at least 25 times the minimum weekly contribution for that year, and contributions paid or credited in both the appropriate tax years amounting to a total of at least 50 times the minimum weekly contribution for that year.<br><br>Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>No qualifying period, but claimants must be 'habitually resident' in the UK. Whether a claimant is considered 'habitually resident' is decided on a case-by-case basis.<br><br>Means test:<br>Contribution-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>No means test, though any earnings and income from occupational or personal pension of above GBP 50 (€ 67) is taken into account.<br>Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>Means test. Generally, all the income and savings of the family is aggregated, and the amount they are deemed to need to live on is determined by adding together the basic amounts and any premiums which apply. If the amount they have coming in as income is less than the amount the family needs to live on, they qualify for benefit.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>3 days. | Qualifying period:<br>Contribution-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>No qualifying period, but contributions must have been paid:<br>• Contributions paid in one of the 2 tax years on which the claim is based amounting to at least 26 times the minimum weekly contribution for that year, and<br>• contributions paid or credited in both the appropriate tax years amounting to a total of at least 50 times the minimum weekly contribution for that year.<br><br>Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>No qualifying period, but claimants must be 'habitually resident' in the UK. Whether a claimant is considered 'habitually resident' is decided on a case-by-case basis.<br><br>Means test:<br>Contribution-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>The first GBP50 (€58) from an occupational or personal pension is disregarded. The full amount of any excess above GBP50 (€58) is deducted from the benefit.<br><br>Income-based Jobseekers' Allowance:<br>Means test. Generally, all the income and savings of the family is aggregated, and the amount they are deemed to need to live on is determined by adding together the basic amounts and any premiums which apply. If the amount they have coming in as income is less than the amount the family needs to live on, they qualify for benefit.<br><br>Waiting period:<br>3 days. | Qualifying period:<br>In 2008 the contributions paid must amount to at least 25 times the minimum weekly contribution for that tax year the claim is based on, whereas in 2013 it is 26 times the minimum weekly contribution. |