

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES

WHAT ARE TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES (TRA)?

The Trade Act of 1974, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 2271-2322) established the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. TAA benefits include:

1. TRA;
2. TAA training;
3. Relocation allowances;
4. Job Search allowances; and
5. Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Workers must apply for each benefit separately. TRA provides temporary income support to qualifying individuals in a TAA covered group. Benefits are payable to qualified individuals after the exhaustion of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits.

TRA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

An individual is eligible for TRA if he or she:

1. Is covered by a certification; and
2. Is separated within the certification period; and
3. Meets the wage and employment minimum requirements; and
4. Is entitled to UI benefits under State law; and
5. Exhausts UI benefits; or
6. Meets the Extended Benefits work test at 20 CFR 615*; and
7. Participates in TAA approved training.

The enrollment in TAA training must occur within 26 weeks of the certification or the most recent separation occurring during the certification.

** Refers to the Extended Benefits (EB) program which requires as a condition of eligibility that the individual conduct a systematic and sustained work search effort to be eligible for benefits.*

TRA WEEKLY BENEFIT AMOUNT (WBA)

The TRA WBA payable is the same WBA as in the individual's first regular UI claim established, or in effect, after the first separation that occurs within the certification period. The TRA WBA is payable for each of the income support streams:

1. Basic TRA;
2. Additional TRA; and
3. Completion TRA.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BASIC, ADDITIONAL, AND COMPLETION TRA

- ▶ Basic TRA is payable after exhaustion of UI benefits and may be paid with a waiver of the TAA training requirement.
- ▶ Additional TRA is payable to assist the individual complete a TAA training program. Additional TRA is paid after exhaustion of basic TRA and requires “actual” participation in TAA approved training on a full-time basis (no waivers allowed).
- ▶ Completion TRA is payable sequentially after exhaustion of basic and additional TRA and requires “actual” participation in TAA approved training on a full-time basis (no waivers allowed). The individual must be participating in TAA training that will lead to the completion of a degree or an industry-recognized credential and the training must be completed within the eligibility period.

TRA ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

- ▶ Basic TRA is payable during a 104-week eligibility period which begins on the week that follows the individual’s most recent qualifying separation.
- ▶ Additional TRA is payable during a 78-week eligibility period. The eligibility period begins after exhaustion of basic TRA or the first week of TAA training if such training begins after the week the individual exhausted basic TRA.
- ▶ Completion TRA is payable during a 20-week eligibility period. The eligibility period begins with the week in which the individual files for completion TRA and claims compensation for such benefit.

MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TRA PAYABLE

- ▶ **Basic TRA** – the maximum amount of basic TRA payable is equal to 52 times the TRA WBA payable, reduced by the maximum UI entitlement of the first UI claim established. The maximum amount is payable during a 104-week eligibility period.
- ▶ **Additional TRA** – an individual may receive up to 65 weeks of TRA, independent of the amount paid each week. Please note, there is no maximum amount payable only a maximum number of weeks. The maximum amount is payable during a 78-week eligibility period.
- ▶ **Completion TRA** – an individual may receive up to 13 weeks of TRA, independent of the amount paid each week. Please note, there is no maximum amount payable only a maximum number of weeks. The maximum amount is payable during a 20-week eligibility period.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

Individual workers are eligible to apply for TAA benefits if they belong to a worker group certified by the U.S. Department of Labor as provided by the regulations at [29 CFR Part 90](#). A certification is issued in response to a petition which concludes that the workers’ loss of employment was caused by foreign import competition. Once certified, workers must meet the individual eligibility requirements to receive TAA benefits. The federal regulations found at [20 CFR Part 617](#), govern TAA program benefits eligibility.