Unemployment Insurance in the United States: Analysis of Policy Issues

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Unemployment Insurance in the United States: Analysis of Policy Issues. O'Leary and Wandner offer 15 original essays that reflect the current state of knowledge on policy issues critical to the performance and success of the nation’s unemployment insurance system. Employment at the state and federal level is a critical component of the economy. The United States established a federal-state unemployment insurance system in 1935 through the Social Security Act. Since then, unemployment insurance has been a key part of the social safety net, providing temporary income support to workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Unemployment insurance serves several important functions. It helps workers maintain their standard of living during periods of unemployment, which can help stabilize overall economic activity. It also serves as a labor market regulator, with benefits that depend on past wages and employment. This book presents 15 original essays that reflect the state of knowledge on policy issues critical to the performance and success of the nation’s UI system. Topics include coverage, rates as a policy analysis tool, unemployment insurance and job search activity, and the political origins of unemployment insurance. The book is intended for researchers, policymakers, and graduate students interested in unemployment insurance. It provides a comprehensive overview of the system and its policy implications.