

10.—Unemployment Assistance by Province, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1956 and 1957

Province and Year	Federal Share of Unemployment Assistance Costs		Recipients in March
		\$	No.
Newfoundland.....	1956 ¹	1,174,735	38,641
	1957	1,562,058	39,489
Prince Edward Island	1956 ¹	55,033	1,596
	1957	54,036	1,532
New Brunswick.....	1956 ²	18,854	3,843
	1957	32,887	3,797
Manitoba.....	1956 ¹	484,131	10,649
	1957 ²	650,000	11,000
Saskatchewan.....	1956 ¹	369,519	10,464
	1957	512,678	10,123
British Columbia.....	1956 ¹	1,721,339	20,785
	1957	2,299,894	21,289
Totals.....	1956	3,823,611	85,978
	1957 ²	5,111,553	87,230

¹ Agreement effective from July 1, 1955.² Agreement effective from Jan. 1, 1956.

Section 3.—Provincial Programs

Subsection 1.—Mothers' Allowances

All provinces have statutory provision for allowances to enable certain needy mothers to remain at home to care for their dependent children. The total cost of this assistance is paid from provincial funds except in Alberta where a portion of each allowance is charged to the municipality of residence. In Newfoundland the Mothers' Allowances program was incorporated in the Social Assistance Act 1954 which became effective Apr. 1, 1955, and the transference of all cases under the Mothers' Allowances Act was completed in March 1957.

Subject to the conditions of eligibility which vary from province to province, the allowances are payable to applicants who are widowed or whose husbands are mentally incapacitated and, except in Alberta, to those whose husbands are physically disabled and unable to support their families. They are also payable, except in Nova Scotia, to deserted wives who meet specified conditions; in several provinces to mothers who have been granted a divorce or legal separation; in some to unmarried mothers; and in Ontario to Indian mothers. Foster mothers are eligible under certain circumstances.

The age limit for children varies from 15 years in one province to 18 in another, with the limit being 17 in two provinces and 16 years in the remainder. Provision is made in most provinces to extend payment for a specified period if the child is attending school or if he is physically or mentally handicapped.

In all provinces applicants must satisfy conditions of need and residence but the amount of outside income and resources allowed and the length of residence required prior to application vary considerably, the latter, for example, from one year in Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland to five years in Quebec. All provinces require that the applicant be resident at the time of application and generally that the child or children live with the recipient, and most provinces require that they continue to live in the province while in receipt of an allowance. In the six provinces in which British or Canadian nationality is a condition of eligibility, the applicant may qualify for mothers' allowances if the mother or father or child meet the specified provisions.

In each province the relevant Act is administered by public welfare authorities. Most provinces have a mothers' allowances board or commission which makes the final decision regarding eligibility and the amount of allowance granted, or acts in an advisory capacity. Rates of benefit as of June 1957 are given in Table 11 and the number of families and children assisted and amounts of benefits paid as at Mar. 31, 1955 and 1956, are given in Table 12.