

WEEKLY RATES OF CONTRIBUTION AND BENEFIT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT, EFFECTIVE OCT. 2, 1955

Range of Earnings	Weekly Contributions ¹		Value of Weekly Stamp ²	Range of Average Weekly Contributions	Weekly Rate of Benefit ³	
	Employer	Employee			Person Without Dependant	Person With Dependant
	cts.	cts.	cts.	cts.	\$	\$
Less than \$ 0.00 ⁴	8	8	16	Less than 20.....	6	8
\$ 9.00 to \$14.99.....	16	16	32	20 and under 27.....	9	12
\$15.00 to \$20.99.....	24	24	48	27 " " 33.....	11	15
\$21.00 to \$26.99.....	30	30	60	33 " " 39.....	13	18
\$27.00 to \$32.99.....	36	36	72	39 " " 45.....	15	21
\$33.00 to \$38.99.....	42	42	84	45 " " 50.....	17	24
\$39.00 to \$44.99.....	48	48	96	50 " " 54.....	19	26
\$45.00 to \$50.99.....	52	52	1.04	54 " " 58.....	21	28
\$51.00 to \$56.99.....	56	56	1.12	58 to 60.....	23	30
\$57.00 or over.....	60	60	1.20			

¹ The weekly contribution is based on actual earnings in the week irrespective of the number of days in which the earnings are obtained. ² Unemployment insurance stamps combine both employer and employee contributions. ³ Rates calculated on the average weekly contributions for the last 30 weeks in the 104 weeks preceding claim. Since Oct. 2, 1955, a claimant to qualify for benefit must have at least 30 weekly contributions in the last 104 weeks prior to claim; 8 weeks must be in the last 52 weeks. (These periods of 104 weeks and 52 weeks may be extended under certain circumstances.) ⁴ Employees earning less than \$9 in a week receive one-half of a 32-cent stamp (8 cents from the employer and 8 cents from the employee).

The duration of benefit is related to the contribution history—one week's benefit for every two weeks' contributions in the past 104 weeks with a maximum of 36 weeks. The rate of benefit is determined by the average of the contributions in the past 30 weeks. No benefit is payable in a benefit period until a claimant has served a waiting period equivalent to one full week's benefit.

Disqualifications for benefit include: loss of work owing to a labour dispute in which the contributor is participating or directly interested; unwillingness to accept suitable employment; being an inmate of any prison or any institution supported out of public funds; refusal to attend a course of instruction or training if directed to do so; residence outside Canada unless otherwise prescribed. Disqualification of a claimant for a period not exceeding six weeks may be imposed if an employee is discharged by reason of his own misconduct or leaves the employment voluntarily without just cause or refuses suitable employment.

Seasonal benefit is payable in the period Dec. 1 to mid-May to certain claimants whose benefits have been exhausted or who have insufficient contributions to qualify for regular benefit. Prior to 1957 the period was Jan. 1 to mid-April.

Statistics of Unemployment Insurance.*—Detailed statistics on unemployment insurance, collected for administration purposes, also provide information of general interest on employment and unemployment and on financial aspects of the scheme. Table 28 shows, for 1956 and 1957, the number of claims received each month in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission, the number of active claimants at each month-end, the average weekly number of beneficiaries each month and total benefits paid. The number of claims received shows the volume of new cases of recorded unemployment among insured persons, while the number of active claimants at month-end indicates recorded unemployment at a given time. Initial and renewal claims filed in 1957 increased by 747,851 from the previous year to a total of 2,373,235. The month-end count of active claimants, who were either applying for or receiving benefit, averaged 272,349 in 1956 and 380,178 in 1957. The average weekly number of beneficiaries in the peak month of March was 451,500 in 1956 and 498,300 in 1957. By December of that year the figure was up from the previous year's average by some 214,000. Benefits paid rose from \$210,000,000 in 1956 to \$305,000,000 in 1957.

* Statistics of unemployment insurance are compiled and published by the Unemployment Insurance Section, Labour Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, from material supplied by the Unemployment Insurance Commission. More detailed analysis of these data is available in DBS publication *Annual Report on Benefit Periods Established and Terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act* and monthly *Statistical Report on Operations of the Unemployment Insurance Act*.