

Maternity benefit was available for eight weeks before confinement, the week of confinement and six weeks after, to women who had had a major labour force attachment. They must also have been part of the labour force at least 10 of the 20 weeks prior to the 30th week before the expected date of confinement.

Retirement benefit, available for three weeks, was paid in a lump sum to claimants with a major labour force attachment who were 65-70 years of age and who had signified they had left the labour force by applying for the Canada Pension Plan or the Quebec Pension Plan, and to persons over 70. The benefit was paid without a waiting period and without regard to earnings or availability.

The benefit rate for all claims was two thirds of average insured earnings in the qualifying period to a weekly maximum of \$123 and a minimum of \$20 in 1975. For claimants with dependents and whose average qualifying earnings were equal to or less than one third of the maximum weekly insurable earnings, the benefit rate was 75%. During later stages of benefit all claimants with dependents drew benefit at 75% of qualifying earnings subject to the \$123 maximum. The maximum insurable earnings and, therefore, the maximum benefit were subject to annual adjustment based on an index calculated from earnings of Canadian employees.

Income from employment in excess of 25% of the benefit rate was deducted. In the case of sickness and maternity, proceeds of wage-loss policies were deducted after the waiting period. All work-related income was deducted both during the waiting period and after the waiting period had been served.

The statistics in Table 8.23 summarize the Unemployment Insurance Commission's activities in the years 1971-75. Figures prior to July 1971 are affected by the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1955, which is described in the *Canada Year Book 1973* p 352.

To assess the impact of changing economic conditions on the insurance program, current operational data, such as claims filed and processed and payments made, are collected and published monthly by Statistics Canada. Current claims and payment data are useful for administrative purposes and are also a source of information to the public regarding financial and other aspects of the program. In addition to the monthly data on the operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, detailed data on persons employed in insurable employment and benefit periods established and terminated are compiled annually and published in *Benefit periods established and terminated under the Unemployment Insurance Act* (Catalogue No. 73-201).

Employment injuries and workmen's compensation

8.6

Fatal employment injuries. Data on fatal employment injuries compiled by the Canada Department of Labour are collected from provincial workmen's compensation boards. On the average annually in the period 1965-74, 1,194 industrial workers sustained fatal injuries. Collisions, derailments or wrecks caused 279 deaths; being struck by an object, 263; falls and slips, 230; being caught in, on or between objects or vehicles, etc., 121; contacts with toxic materials or industrial diseases, 110; conflagrations, exposure to temperature extremes and explosions, 64; and the remaining 127 resulted from miscellaneous accidents. Table 8.24 presents statistics on fatal employment injuries in 11 industries for the years 1973-75. Employment injuries, extent of disability and amount of compensation paid are reported by province for the years 1974 and 1975 in Table 8.25. In 1974, 1,047,029 injuries resulted in \$538 million in compensation compared with 985,677 injuries and \$426 million in compensation in 1973. Preliminary figures for 1975 show 1,006,263 injuries resulted in \$684 million in compensation.