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**“Has the amount of the benefits changed?”**

Absolutely not. The UI benefit rate stays at two-thirds of your average weekly insurable earnings.

The maximum is \$147, less tax.

**“Anything else I should know?”**

The maximum time for which anyone may receive benefits has changed slightly. The old maximum was 51 weeks. Now it's 50 weeks.

But since September 11, the total number of weeks for which a claimant qualifies has more closely reflected the unemployment rate in his or her region.

Right now, we measure unemployment by dividing Canada into 16 economic regions. Later, in 1978, we will fine-tune the program to 54 regions so that UI will be even more closely related to the local labour market conditions.

Also, there's maternity, sickness and age 65 benefits.

Previously, sickness benefits were only payable during the first 39 weeks of the claim. Now they are payable at any time during the entire benefit period.

Maternity benefits of 15 weeks and the special one-time benefit (equal to three weeks' benefits) at age 65 remains the same.

The same people still pay for the program in the same proportions, and the types of employment insurable for UI remain the same, too.

And, as explained in the box below, you still go to the familiar locations for both UI offices and Canada Manpower Centres. Watch for changes in your area.

*The Unemployment Insurance Commission and the Department of Manpower and Immigration have become the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. For a time, you'll still see our local offices identified as Unemployment Insurance offices or Canada Manpower Centres. When they're together in one location, they'll be called Canada Employment Centres.*

**Working with people who want to work.**



Employment and Immigration Canada

Emploi et Immigration Canada

Bud Cullen  
Minister

Bud Cullen  
Ministre