

1972, pensioners with only the old-age security pension receive a guaranteed annual income of \$1,800 for single persons, and of \$3,420 for a married couple both of whom are pensioners. Pensioners with income in addition to their old-age pension receive partial benefits. The rule used to determine the amount of the partial benefit is that the maximum monthly supplement is reduced by \$1 for every full \$2 of monthly income a pensioner has in addition to his old-age security pension and any supplement he may have received. Payments will be made outside Canada in the same way as under the old-age security program but cover only temporary absence from the country. Beginning in 1973, the GIS will be adjusted on April 1 of each year to reflect the full rise in the cost of living during the previous calendar year.

The program is administered by the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Department of National Revenue checks income information received on returns made under this program against information received under the Income Tax Act.

#### *Unemployment insurance*

The Unemployment Insurance Act provides for a program of unemployment insurance administered by the Unemployment Insurance Commission through its head office, regional offices, and local offices across the country. Unemployment insurance is compulsory for all persons in the labour force who work under the direction and control of an employer. Self-employed fishermen are covered as an interim measure pending new legislation for that industry. Persons earning less than \$30 a week or 20 times the provincial minimum wage, whichever is less, and all other self-employed workers are excluded from unemployment insurance.

Insured workers and employers each make contributions to the unemployment insurance fund. All workers pay a like contribution rate on their first \$150 of weekly earnings in 1972 (the earnings ceiling escalates annually). The large employer pays between 100 per cent and 200 per cent of the insured person's contribution rate, depending on his three-year moving average layoff factor. Small employers, with insurable payrolls of less than \$78,000 (in 1972), pay 140 per cent of the insured person's contribution rate. The Federal Government covers the extra cost of benefits when the unemployment rate rises above 4 per cent plus the cost for extension of benefit period to claimants with long periods of unemployment.

To qualify for unemployment benefit, a person must have at least eight weeks of labour-force attachment in the previous 52 weeks for minimum benefits and 20 or more weeks for full benefits (including sickness and maternity benefits). A person must be capable, willing and available for work, but unable to obtain suitable employment, or unable to work because of sickness or maternity, and registered.

Unemployment benefits amount to 66 2/3 per cent of previous weekly-insured earnings (maximum of \$100 a week in 1972) and 75 per cent for low-income claimants with dependants, or claimants with dependants whose duration of unemployment is prolonged. Benefits are payable after a two-week waiting